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CELEBRATION
THE INSIDE STORY



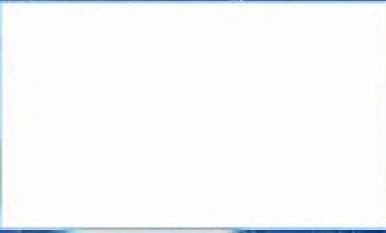
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EDITOR'S WELCOME

"Darth Vader! Only you could be so bold."

—Princess Leia, *A New Hope*

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Whether you think Darth Vader is a tragic hero or a despicable villain, there's no doubt that he's one of *Star Wars'* most enduring icons. This issue we interview the much-respected actor James Earl Jones, whose vocal performance as the Dark Lord lead to him becoming one of the most impersonated performers on the planet. Every fan has, at one stage, tried to capture Jones's iconic vocal performance—but it's not quite as easy as you'd think!

Vader's journey from innocence to evil to redemption shows how unpredictable the *Star Wars* saga can be. Equally unpredictable is the return of Starkiller in the sequel to 2008's epic video game, *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed*. This issue project lead Haden Blackman and Starkiller himself, Sam Witwer, offer some tantalizing hints as to what to expect from the game that's sure to be a classic.

This is the last *Star Wars Insider* to hit newsstands before *Celebration V* lands in Florida. Have you got your ticket yet? To whet your appetite, we've taken a look back at the original event held way back in 1999. Were you there?

I bet you didn't know what was going on behind the scenes and how dark forces seemed to conspire to cancel the entire event. It's a fascinating story of triumph despite near tragedy!

We haven't forgotten *The Empire Strikes Back*. Although next issue is our 100-page tribute to my personal



CLONE TRIVIA!

Discover little known secrets about Season Two of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* on page 32!



favorite chapter of the *Star Wars* saga, we have sneaked a little *Empire* exclusive into this issue. Have you ever noticed that the corridors of Cloud City look similar? No? Well take a look at our feature exploring the interiors of *Star Wars'* most well-known mining facility. As ever with *Star Wars*, there is ingenuity at work!

Don't forget to subscribe, if you haven't already. It's the only way to get your hands on a copy of the magazine without the coverlines. It pays to be an *Insider*!

May the Force be with you all,

Jonathan Wilkins, Editor

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DOCKING BAY

STAR WARS: THE FORCE UNLEASHED

THIS ISSUE...

"I'VE TRAINED YOU WELL, BUT YOU STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN."—DARTH VADER, *STAR WARS: THE FORCE UNLEASHED*

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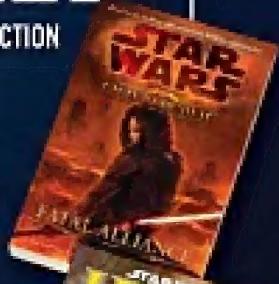


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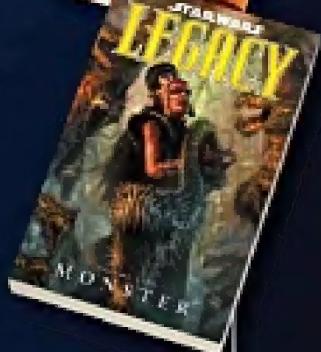
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LAUNCH

GEEK CHIC FOR GIRLS!

AHSOKA TANO VOICE ACTOR ASHLEY ECKSTEIN ON WHY THE RANGE OF *STAR WARS* CLOTHING FROM HER NEW COMPANY, HER UNIVERSE, IS PERFECT FOR THE DISCERNING FEMALE FAN!

Star Wars Insider: Science fiction fandom is often seen as a male thing—why do you think this is? Ashley Eckstein: I think that's what society has told us. Girls are supposed to love pink and princesses, and guys are supposed to love comic books, right? Not always! Girls have always been sci-fi fans but many hide their passion for this genre. Over the past decade, this stereotype has slowly been changing with all of the successful sci-fi franchises. *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* has really helped break this barrier with the introduction of Ahsoka Tano. She is the first female Jedi who has taken a lead role in the *Star Wars* universe. With the popularity of Luminara Unduli, Asajj Ventress, Barriss Offee, and Aurra Sing, more and more girls are coming out of the woodwork to proclaim their fandom. Strong female characters are accepted and so are strong female fans!

Why do you think *Star Wars* appeals so much to female fans?

The message of *Star Wars* transcends gender. *Star Wars* teaches us that good will always overcome evil. At the end of the day, it's a feel-good story that speaks to everyone and gives us hope. It is also a love story. Love between father and son, husband and wife, and princess and scoundrel. When you combine fantasy with hope and love, there's a pretty good chance that girls will be interested.

What do girl fans want from their geek apparel?

Female fans truly want to be Geek Chic! We want quality designs on garments made specifically for the female body. We want to show off our curves not cover them up with boxy cuts made for men. We want to express our fandom in a stylish way. We want the same cool designs the men have and not something that was an afterthought made in pink!

Do you have a favorite piece from the collection?

One of my favorite pieces in the collection so far is the "Plo Koon and Ahsoka" shirt designed by Dave Filoni. Just like Plo Koon found Ahsoka and brought her to the Jedi Temple, Dave found me in voice-over obscurity and gave me this amazing opportunity. He believed in me, and I feel like I'm Dave's Padawan. Since Plo Koon is his favorite character, I asked him to design a shirt with Plo and

Ahsoka to reflect their relationship. He even let us use his "Plo Koon" sign-off symbol to show that he approves. We also have shirts in our first collection designed by *Star Wars* artists Katie Cook and Cat Staggs. Their artwork is awesome!

Who would you most like to see featured in the range that hasn't been used yet?

I have a soft spot for R2-D2. I want to design a special piece just for him!



PAD



PAGE 13

Sam Witwer and Hayden Blackman discuss the all-new video game.

THE FORCE UNLEASHED II

PAGE 32

Discover some of the hidden treats lurking in Season two of

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS



PLUS: 22. JAMES EARL JONES // 28. HUGH QUARSHIE
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56. CLASSIC SCENE

COMPILED BY BONNIE BURTON

BEHOLD THE BACON AT-AT!

While some fans eat their breakfast food, others would rather play with it. Check out the Bacon AT-AT which stands three-feet tall and is made with over 40 pounds of bacon. The body is made from foam, to which the bacon was attached. This extraordinary, if potentially fattening piece took over 21 hours to construct.



CLONE WARS COUTURE!



It was only a matter of time before *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* began to influence runway fashion. Swedish fashion label Acne's Jonny

Johansson told the media during one of his shows in London that he took direct inspiration from *The Clone Wars*, which he watches with his sons.

Vogue UK reports:

Acne's Jonny Johansson cites *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* as the starting point for his autumn/winter 2010 collection, which showed last night in East London. That's not to say we should all start packing a lightsaber, but rather we should be channelling the intergalactic color palette, shape, and feel of Luke Skywalker's get-up.

"The collection was actually inspired by a cartoon my two eldest sons are obsessed with, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*," Johansson revealed with a smile. "It's not literal, of course, just a feeling, an inspiration—and many of the silhouettes continue from last season. But I liked the idea that movies with spacey subjects are supposed to look futuristic."



JAMES MARSTERS & HIS INTERGALACTIC FANS

Actor James Marsters, best known as Spike on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*, as well as his various characters on *Torchwood*, *Smallville*, and *Caprica*, also voiced the short-lived character Captain Argyus on *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*.

He's been quoted in interviews about his appreciation for stormtrooper armor, so seeing him posing with members from The 501st Legion and The Rebel Legion in Melbourne this year warms our Imperial/Rebel hearts!

superanova
The Star Wars Show

LAUNCH PAD

THE WONDERS OF WONDERCON

Admiral Ackbar cereal? Robot Chicken cosplay? Stormtroopers and clone troopers galore? WonderCon in San Francisco consists of three full days of comics, movies, TV shows, costumes, celebrities, artists, droid builders and more! Here are some highlights!



Daniel Logan (Boba Fett), Jamie King (Aurra Sing), Jon Favreau and Lucasfilm's Pablo Hidalgo



WIN!

We have a cool set of Darth Vader headphones available for one lucky reader! Simply write in or send an email to the address on page three!

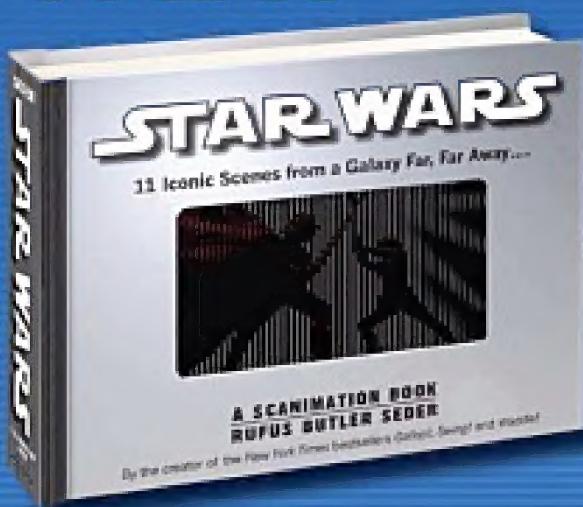
The Star Wars headphones

come in a number of designs—from the iconic *Star Wars* logo to Rebel Alliance and Darth Vader concepts—ideal for the *Star Wars* aficionado and avid collector alike!

<http://www.coloud.com>



WIN!



We also have five copies of Workman Publishing's new *Star Wars* Scanimation book to give away! Write or send an email to the address on page three!

The book, which is out now, uses scrambled artwork overlaid by a striped clear sheet that produces the illusion of motion. It's both high-tech and traditional—a movie without a screen, and a book that comes to life.

JON FAVREAU VISITS ILM

Iron Man director Jon Favreau often visited Industrial Light & Magic during the post-production work on *Iron Man 2*, but unlike some directors, he wanted to make sure his fans got to see the same things he was admiring on his trips. As he took

a tour of ILM, the actor/director who supplied the voice of Pre Vizsla in *The Clone Wars*, Tweeted about who he ran into (Chewbacca had dropped by too!), some of his favorite props, and a cup of Joe at *Jawas the Hutt*.



STEP ASIDE GODZILLA, IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE ZILLO BEAST HAIKU!

In honor of the mega-monster mayhem unleashed by the Zillo Beast on *The Clone Wars*, Starwars.com borrowed a page from

"What?" says the Zillo.
"Does anyone knock these days?
Scram you lousy kids."
—DOC

Zillo Beast shot at
Occupational hazard
Lunch: Human Kebabs
—CC-328

Zillo Beast is loose
What good will these rifles do?
Ah, shut up, Kosmos
—Chris Mathers

Zillo Beast abides
Lurking in the valley mist
Coruscant's new doom
—Jaimeb_r2b

Just one seismic blast
And we have a new toy for
Our experiments
—Chief

One has to wonder
Were Zillo to fight 'Zilla
Who's victorious?
—Dennyst

Godzilla fandom and began celebrating the reptilian titan 17 syllables at a time. Here are some of our favorites:



STAR WARS

JULY/AUGUST 2010

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INTERROGATION DROID!

IN CELEBRATION OF *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY, *STAR WARS INSIDER* PICKS THE BRAIN OF INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC SPECIAL EFFECTS ARTIST HOWIE WEED, WHO BOTH DESIGNED AND WORE THE WAMPA SUIT FOR THE FILM'S 1997 SPECIAL EDITION. WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE



Above: Even wampas need their sleep!
Right: Howie Weed gets hungry on Hoth!

In retrospect, do you think it was wise to charge a Jedi armed with a lightsaber? Food that fights back can be disarming!

Killing the tauntaun, with only its meager little horns to defend itself, was like a wolf stalking a cow—easy pickings! Luke being on top was just the icing on the cake. Obviously wampas don't understand technology very well. Charging a Jedi holding a glowing sword didn't send the appropriate "fight or flight" message to his brain. Of course, I think he got the idea pretty quickly after his arm fell off.



What was the wampa's favorite part of the tauntaun to eat?

This I know for certain: The bone he was eating was the femur. He always starts there and works his way up. Tauntaun tastes not unlike fresh Ketwol, but it really depends on how it's prepared.

After the wampa's arm was severed, which daily tasks became most difficult?
Hanging meat from the cave ceiling became much harder!

In fact, that was pretty much out of the question. The alternative methods of floor-based meat refrigeration are not elegant, but get the job done.

What type of meal do you think the wampa planned to make out of Luke? Was he a

NAME: HOWIE WEED
ALIAS: WAMPA

FIRST APPEARANCE
Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back

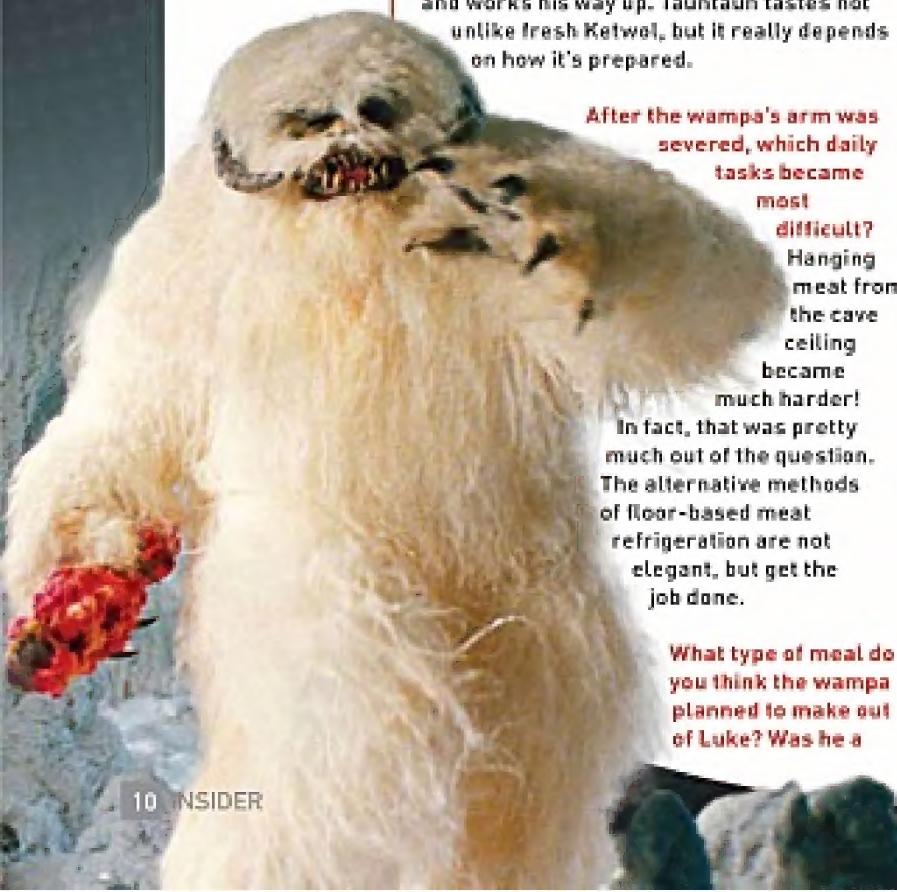
frozen snack or a rare delicacy?
I think Luke was a dessert topping. Shaved ice filling the tauntaun skull with a Jedi added in for flavor. It's a Hoth favorite!

Why does Hoth make such a habitable home for the snow beasts?

This is the wampa's home planet, and they are perfectly at home in the freezing cold. Things could be changing however. Climate change on Hoth has been brought up as a serious issue before the Imperial Senate.

Unlike tauntauns, wampas are odorless. How did the wampa manage to stay so clean?
It's all about the snow baths. Wampas spend a lot of time lurking in the snow, waiting for unsuspecting creatures to wander by. So they're constantly getting snow-blasted. Now bad breath, that's another story!

When the wampa let loose and played in the snow, what do you think he built?
A little altar for his arm. It's still there, frozen solid. ♪



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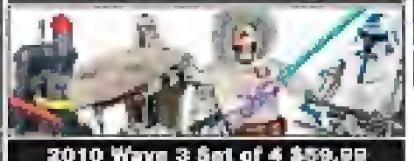
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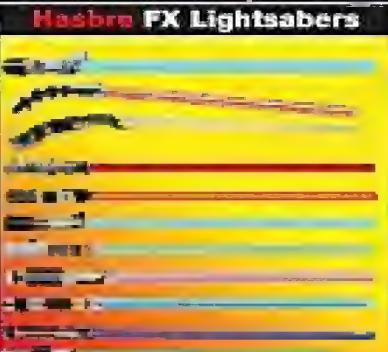


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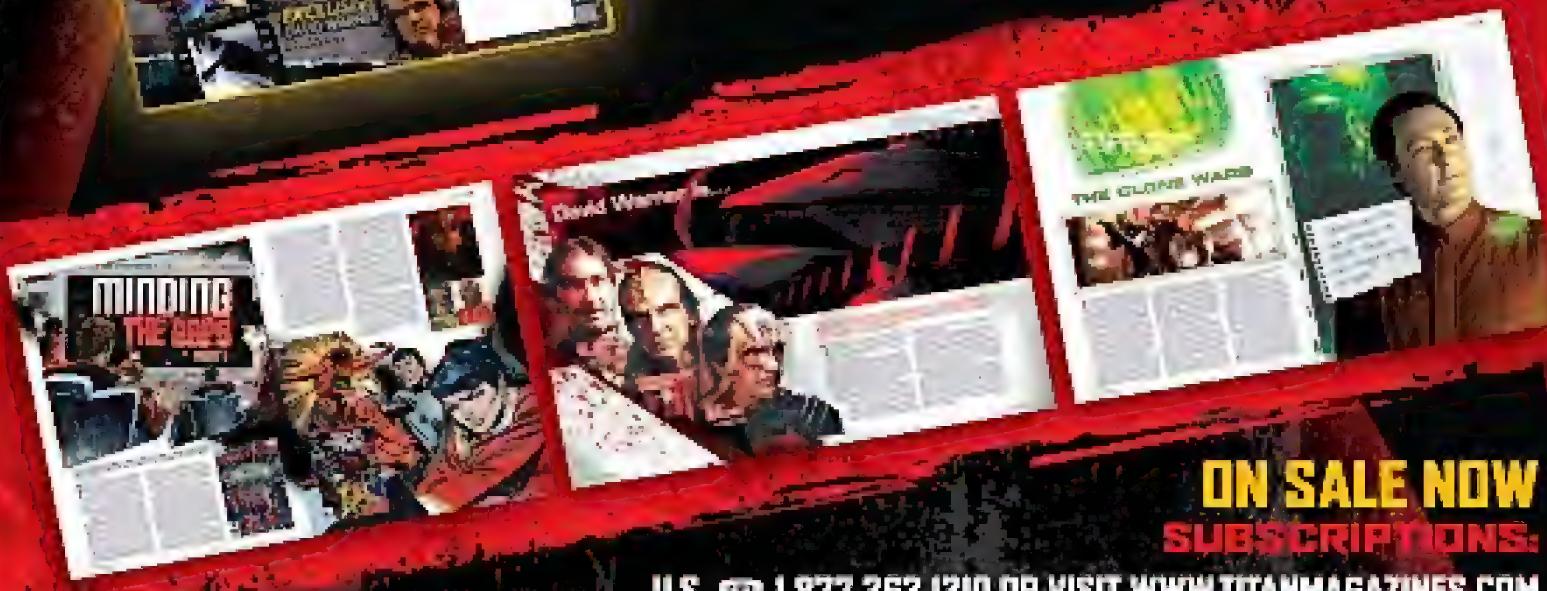
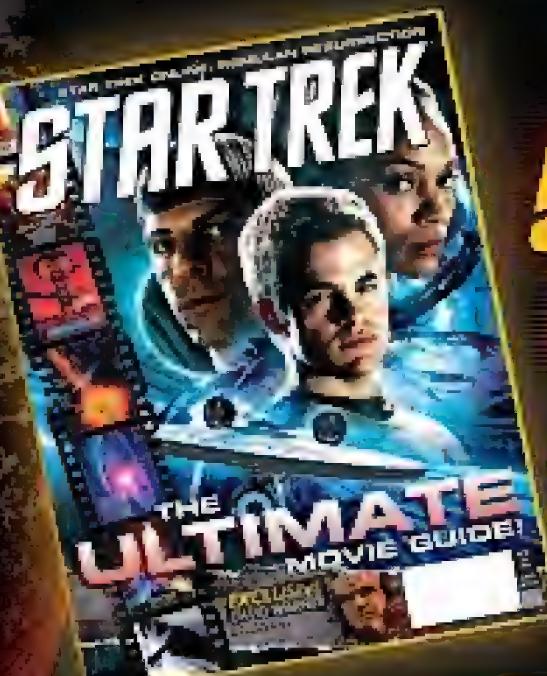
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STRIKING BACK!



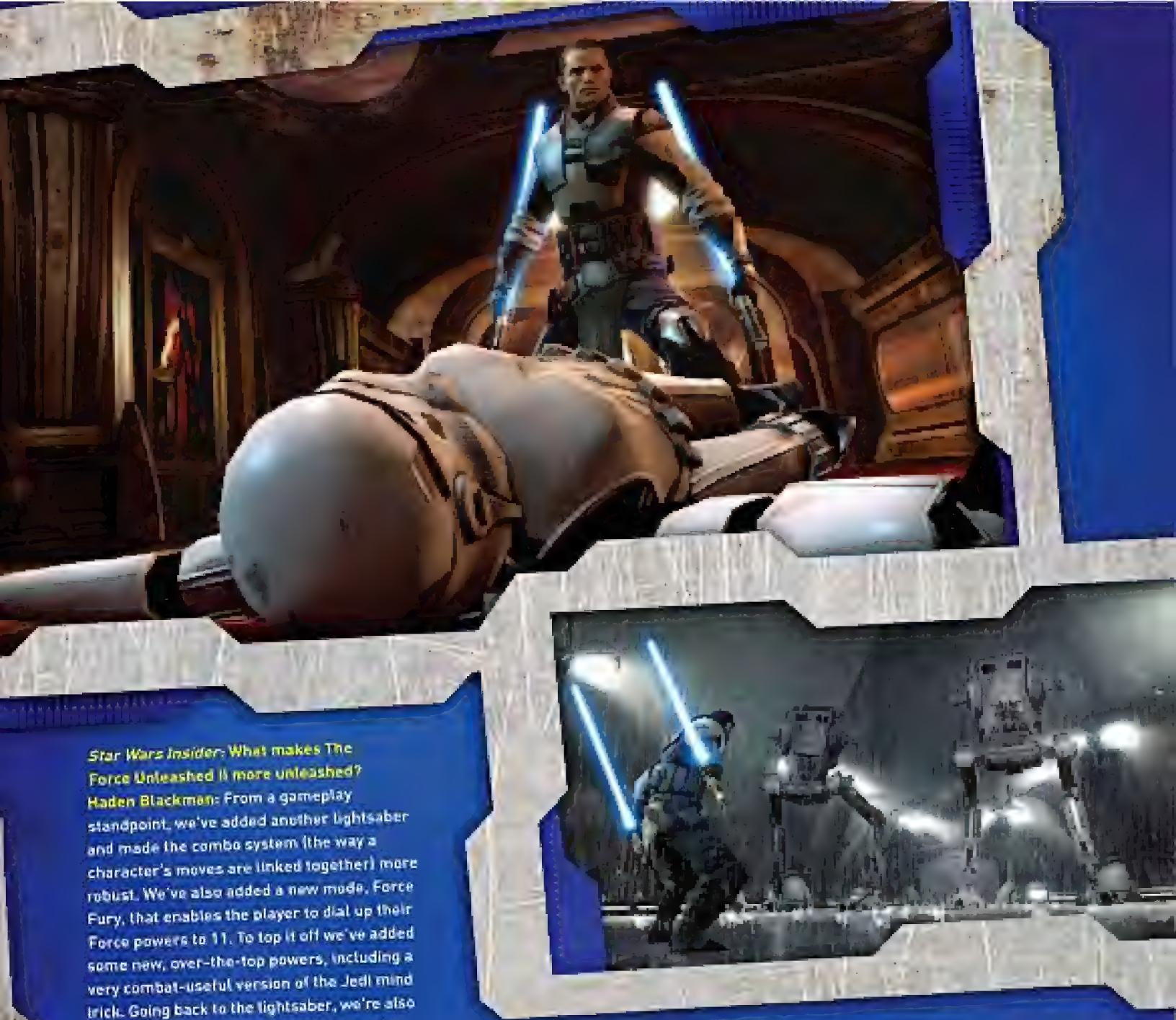
INSIDER GOES BEHIND THE SCENES TO UNCOVER SOME OF THE SECRETS OF *STAR WARS: THE FORCE UNLEASHED II*.
WORDS: BRETT RECTOR

When *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed* hit stores in the fall of 2008, it quickly became the most popular and fastest selling *Star Wars* game ever created, not to mention the biggest hit to come out of LucasArts' internal studio in its more-than-30-year history. In addition to experiencing the most visceral Jedi action-adventure game ever to hit consoles (thanks to Force powers which had never been seen before), the world was introduced to Darth Vader's secret apprentice, Starkiller—the unlikely hero who would ultimately redeem himself and become the spark to ignite the flames of Rebellion in a galaxy so desperately in need of a hero.

Two years on and audiences will once again meet Starkiller as LucasArts releases the highly anticipated sequel, *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed II*. However, instead of redemption, the apprentice will embark on a journey that will not only attempt to reunite him with his true love, Juno Eclipse, but also lead him to discover just who he really is. In *The Force Unleashed II*, Starkiller is once again the pawn of Darth Vader—but instead of training him to be a ruthless assassin, Vader is attempting to clone his former apprentice to create the ultimate Sith warrior. The maddening dilemma that Starkiller faces is that he doesn't know whether or not he's the man he thinks he is.

Star Wars Insider met Haden Blackman, the Executive Producer and writer for *The Force Unleashed* and *The Force Unleashed II*, and actor Sam Witwer, the face and voice of Starkiller, to discover where the apprentice is headed next.





Star Wars Insider: What makes *The Force Unleashed II* more unleashed?

Haden Blackman: From a gameplay standpoint, we've added another lightsaber and made the combo system (the way a character's moves are linked together) more robust. We've also added a new mode, Force Fury, that enables the player to dial up their Force powers to 11. To top it off we've added some new, over-the-top powers, including a very combat-useful version of the Jedi mind trick. Going back to the lightsaber, we're also trying to make it behave more like a real lightsaber would. We're also focusing on very big, epic battles.

What was the creative process behind getting *The Force Unleashed II* off the ground?

HB: It took us a little while to decide exactly when we were going to do *The Force Unleashed II*. In order to get it started, we knew we had to bring back the apprentice. The one thing I would ask the team early in development was, "What action figures do I have to play with, what set pieces and locations do I have at my disposal?" and then build a story around that. In *The Force Unleashed* it was the opposite. Instead of going with a known quantity like the apprentice and telling a story about him, we had to create the story first, and then come up with the main character after.



Where the first game was really about creating that world, the sequel is more about refining what we already have and developing a story from there. From the start, everything radiated from the apprentice.

How has Starkiller changed between the games?

Sam Witwer: In the first game Starkiller felt he knew his purpose, but in reality he was really a confused person. In the sequel he's even more confused, which accounts for his ragged emotional state. In the original game, Starkiller starts out on a mission and approaches it with a great deal of confidence until he gets betrayed. This time around, we never see him on firm footing. Certainly he is as lethal a combatant as he ever was—even more so—but in terms of being on an emotional steady ground, no. The whole point of this story is him trying to find that emotional steady ground. He's trying to find something that he thinks will bring him some peace.



Why come back to the apprentice? What is it about Starkiller that you like as a writer and a gamemaker?

HB: There were two reasons. From a creative standpoint, we always saw *The Force Unleashed* just as much a story about Vader as it was about Starkiller. When we talked about doing a sequel and continuing it as a part of Vader's story, we thought bringing back Starkiller in an interesting way would provide us with a really good foil for Vader. It would allow us to learn more about Vader and how he will try the same thing over and over again until it actually works—which may be the definition of insanity.

The practical and production side of me wanted to come back to the apprentice because he was a known quantity. We know how long it takes to animate him, we know how he moves and fights, it's much easier in some respects than creating a brand new character from scratch.

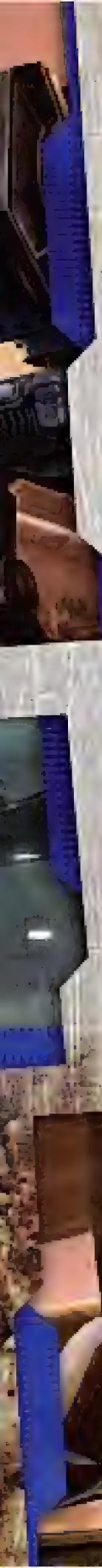
What is it about the apprentice that you like as an actor?

SW: It's really great to play a *Star Wars* protagonist. It's damn fun! Starkiller is very clear on what his problems are and where, ultimately, his loyalties lie. His biggest problem is his identity and where he comes from.

What I like about him is he's a badass with a lightsaber.



I'm a huge *Star Wars* fan, so just swimming around in that galaxy and playing this part is great. The thing I like the most is the little piece of Luke Skywalker that's inside him. Some might think it's the rogue-ish, Han Solo-ness of the character. But for me it's finding those moments of innocence. The story is so dark that it was our job to look for the bright spots. And that was what Mark Hamill's Luke Skywalker was all about. You find as many moments where you can be Luke Skywalker and try to bring those out. And that's what makes him a compelling protagonist. If Starkiller was just a bad guy with a buzz cut looking for



trouble, his character would get pretty boring. There are a lot of places where the apprentice can go. This version of Starkiller is shrouded in mystery. He is an extremely powerful and primal Force-user.

Why is Starkiller so valuable to Vader?

HB: From a continuity standpoint one answer is that there just aren't a lot of Force users out there. Vader and the Emperor have wiped out most of them, so it would be hard for Vader to go find an ex-Jedi or a Jedi-in-hiding and convert them to being his apprentice. If Vader finds another newborn you're talking another 18 years before that character is ready. Vader put all his eggs in one basket originally with Starkiller; he stole him away from Kashyyyk and trained him for 14 years or so. That's a lot of investment. To have that all go away was something that Vader wrestled with. To bring back Starkiller in some capacity, I think, was a shortcut for Vader to get an apprentice again. We're being vague about Vader's motives—is he trying to overthrow the Emperor, is he trying to get another agent to continue to hunt down the Rebels. Who knows? We're leaving some of that up to interpretation.

How do you view Starkiller and Vader's relationship?

SW: Starkiller is different this time around, due to his identity crisis—how different is up to the player's interpretation. Having said that, he is still very terrified of Vader, but he certainly doesn't behave like he did in

the original game; he is more defiant than before.

As for Vader, we get to see him before his ultimate rise to power. At this point in his career Vader is still getting used to his power and influence. He isn't the Vader we see in *The Empire Strikes Back*; he isn't as cold and calculating. The apprentice is able to test his patience, and at times get to him. Vader is taken out of his comfort zone. We expose elements of Vader's character that you haven't seen before.

Right from the beginning the apprentice struggles with an identity crisis—is he really who Vader says he is, or is he living a lie? Why is Juno such an integral part of him discovering who he really is?

SW: She helped solidify his identity, right before his one-man assault on the Death Star. She was his anchor-point. Her feelings for him made his sacrifice make sense to him. Now imagine putting yourself in his shoes and losing your identity. Suddenly, what are you going to do? What are you going to do to make yourself feel whole again, like yourself again? For the apprentice, it means taking himself back to a place where he feels surer of himself. Not necessarily back to the Death Star, but to that moment before his attack, to that moment with Juno, where she essentially opened up her heart to him and gave him that kiss. Juno probably didn't realize that kiss would have such a profound impact on Starkiller. But this is a guy that previously had no experience in love.



There is a lot a room for interpretation as to why the apprentice feels the way he does, and what is influencing his actions. My personal one is that he is totally lost. The only thread that he has to follow is Juno, this woman he has feelings for—that's it. He hopes that if he can get near her again, answers will come.

On a primal level, he feels awful in this maelstrom of uncertainty. He wants to move out of that and into a place where he feels more comfort, which is being with her.

Do you think Juno feels equally as strong toward the apprentice?

HB: I think so. It's hard to develop these kinds of interactions in video games, where you're not in the character's head and having that monologue. She's on the run just as much as Starkiller after they're betrayed by Vader the first time. They're kindred spirits in that sense. They were both dedicated to the Empire and to serving Vader, and then when Vader betrays both of them she is inspired by Starkiller to join the Rebel Alliance. That's how we see her—she's now a dedicated Rebel officer. Juno was inspired by Starkiller's sacrifice to become a Rebel, and she makes sure that his memory is kept alive by serving the Alliance. Juno cares deeply about the apprentice. They went through hell together.

Why do you think there is such a strong connection between Starkiller and Juno? What is it about her that affects him so greatly?

SW: This is a man who, until his first encounter with Juno, had never seen—much less been around—a beautiful woman before. You can imagine he would get a little bit swept up by that, especially since Juno has such admirable traits. And make no mistake, she is quite

admirable, and we see a little bit of that in the new game. Juno is someone worth having feelings for. In *The Force Unleashed*, it didn't really require much more than infatuation to drive this character. The infatuation that the apprentice has for Juno is a profound thing. He's never experienced a relationship like this before. I mean, this is a guy whose best "friend" up until meeting Juno was a droid that tried to kill him on an almost daily basis—that's his idea of what friendship is. You can imagine that romantic feelings of any kind would be something that this incredibly powerful warrior has no defense for. None. This story is not one of revenge and redemption—it's one of identity and devotion. ☺



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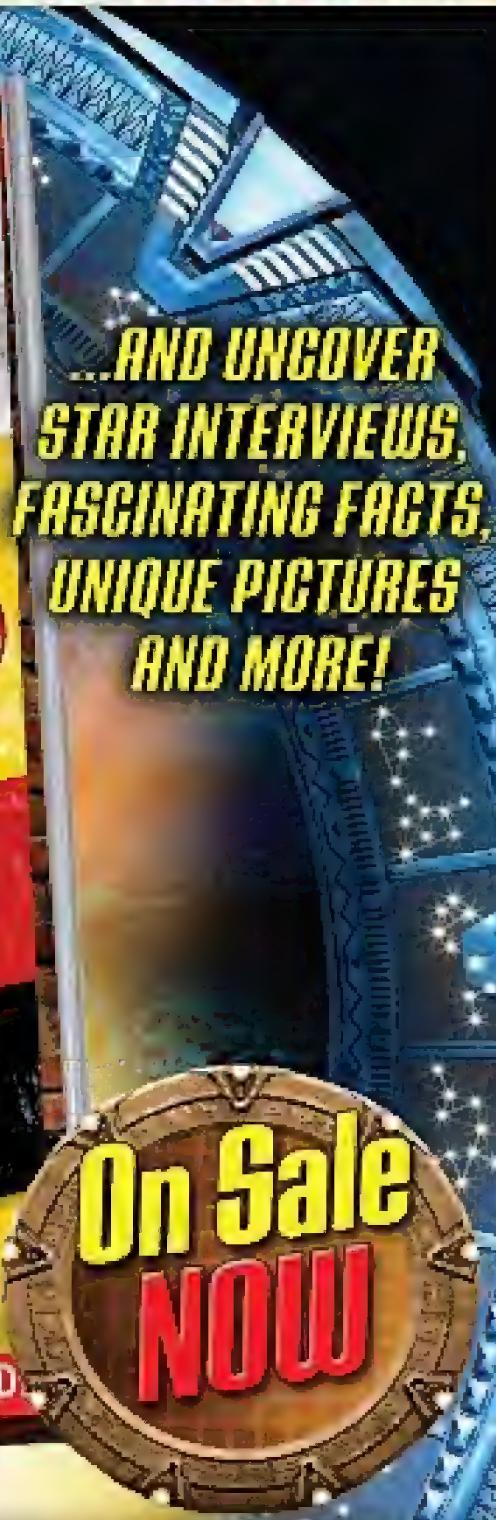
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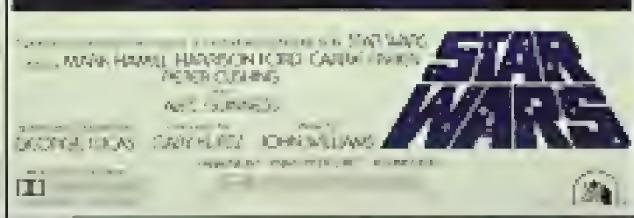
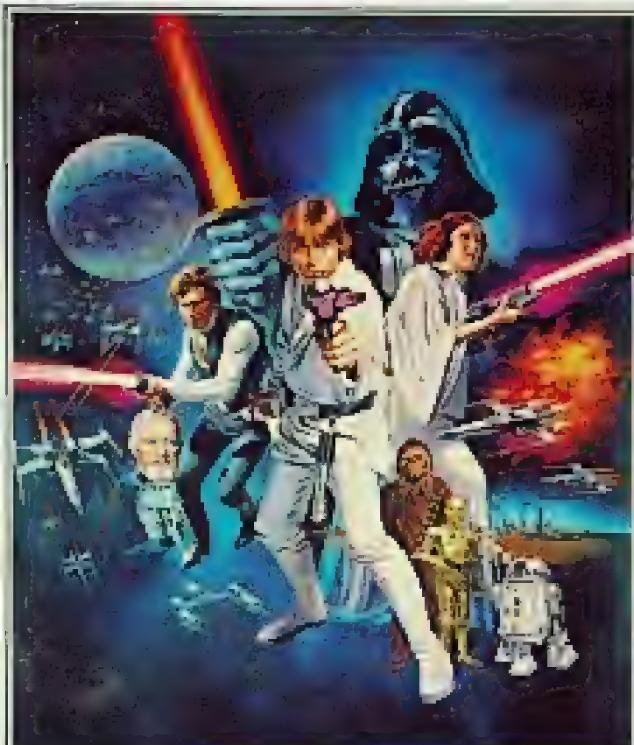


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MY STAR WARS

WARWICK DAVIS PLAYED THE LEADING ROLE IN THE *LEPRECHAUN* HORROR FRANCHISE, HAS A PART IN THE *HARRY POTTER* MOVIES, AND BEEN ROUGHED UP BY RICKY GERVAIS IN *EXTRAS*. HE'S DUE TO STAR IN A NEW BBC2 COMEDY SERIES LATER THIS YEAR. JONATHAN WILKINS FINDS OUT WHY THE *STAR WARS* SAGA HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS HEART



What was your first *Star Wars* experience?

It was going to see *Star Wars* in 1977, and lining up outside the theater. It was quite a sunny afternoon, and after all the anticipation we didn't get in. We waited while that showing went on, and went in to see the next showing. It probably would have been one of the first films—other than *Bambi*—which had an impact on me; it was a very emotional experience. I went back home, and my mum was getting ready to go out. I remember sitting on the end of her bed and saying, "Mum, I saw this brilliant film!" I told her the entire story.

Which is your favorite *Star Wars* movie?

The Empire Strikes Back

Back is one of my favorites, just because it's a really good film. It has all the right ingredients. I like the intrigue and darkness of it all.

I think if I was to pick the all-time *best*, it would be *A New Hope*. It started the *Star Wars* saga—but it started a lot of other movies as well. It inspired people to get into the movie business.

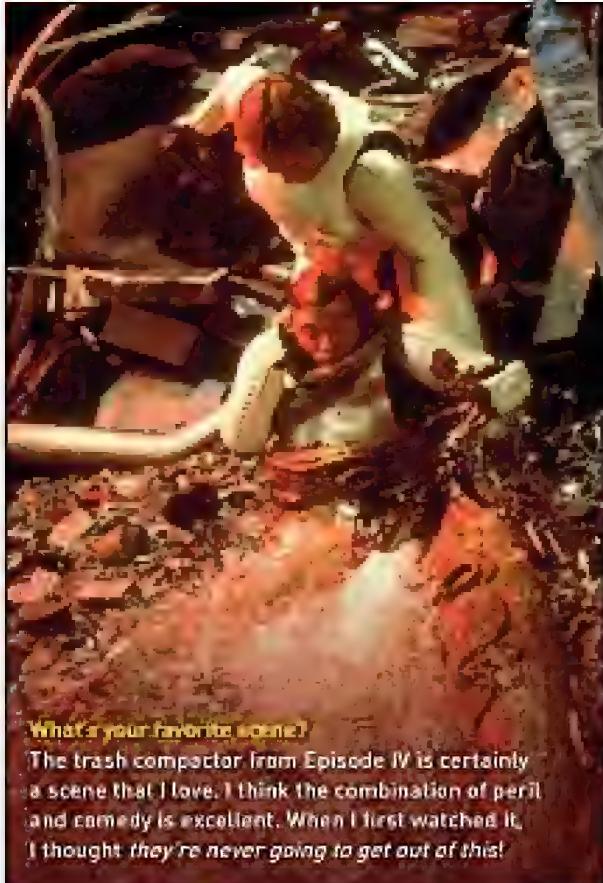


What was your favorite *Star Wars* toy as a kid?

The Kenner Millennium Falcon was my favorite, because you could do so much with it. You could fly it around, land it, and open the top. It had a good space in it with a cockpit area, and a ramp. The AT-AT wasn't so good, because mine would often fall over and it was hard to reach for me, because it's quite tall.

Luke Skywalker was always my favorite figure. I didn't like the ones with capes, because I always lost the capes!





What's your favorite scene?

The trash compactor from Episode IV is certainly a scene that I love. I think the combination of peril and comedy is excellent. When I first watched it, I thought they're never going to get out of this!

EXPANDED UNIVERSE

Warwick Davis's autobiography, *Size Matters Not*, is out now. To win one of five signed copies, write to *Star Wars Insider* before July 27, 2010. Contact details on page three.



Do you own any Wicket action figures?
I have a few favorites. I love the LEGO Star Wars version of Wicket. There's something iconic about LEGO, when you become a LEGO figure you feel like you've made it. I like the Kubrick Wicket and I do love my Wicket memory stick. I take great pleasure when I'm in a meeting and I say, "Can you just put that on my memory stick?"

Then there was the original Kenner figure. I liked the very first one, because he became very butch later. All of them got muscular, though. We'd all been working out!



Can you tell us a previously unknown nugget of information about you?
In Episode I, I played Yoda in the scene in which he is walking. I had a little stick and Frank Oz's gloves. The costume had to be made for me because I'm a bit taller than Yoda, and the stick was a bit bigger. I did all the Yoda noises on the set—you have to if you want to get the correct feel of the character!

What's your happiest memory of working on the Star Wars movies?

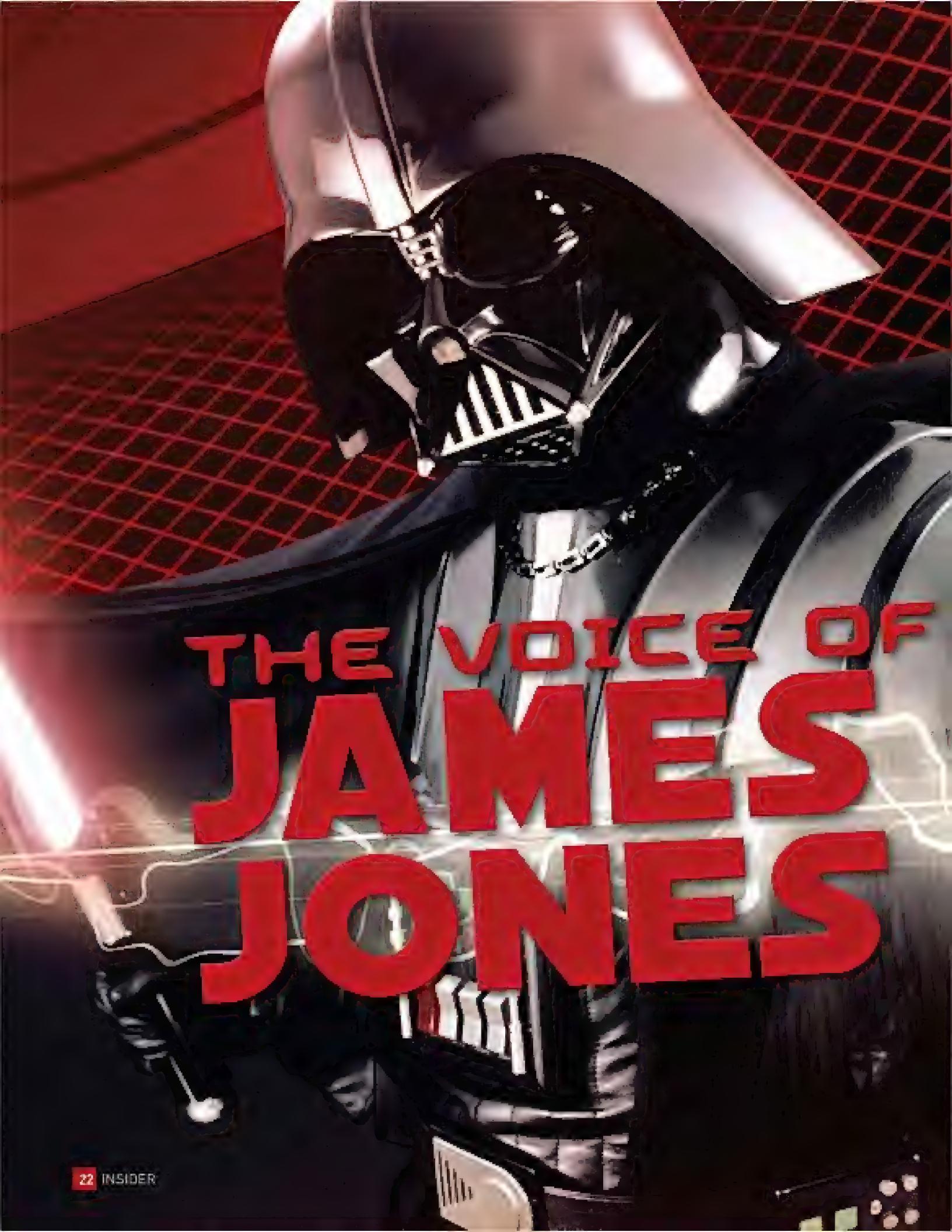
Just being on the set of *Jedi* in the Ewok village when I was 12, and being surrounded by my screen heroes. Seeing Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill in costume, and watching this whole process was amazing.

Suddenly, it was all unravelled before me. It was like, "Okay, I see these things on screen, and now I see that they're here, and there are cameras, and they're discussing it, then they're saying, 'Action!'" All of that came to me.

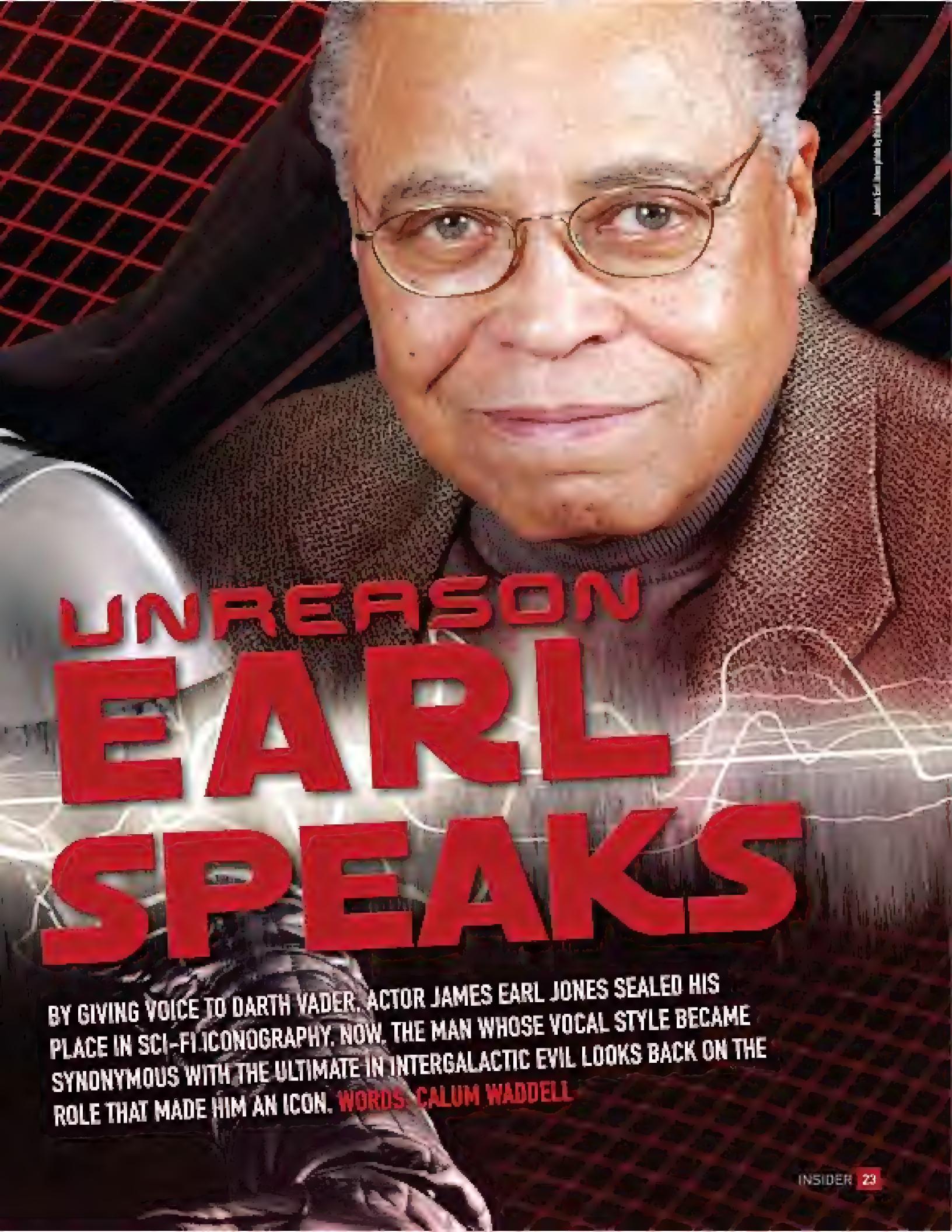


Why do you think Star Wars has had such longevity?

I think it's the good versus evil thing. The goodies and baddies are very identifiable. That's a theme that is universal. Whatever kind of background, culture, or language that you speak, you can get the concept. Also I like the cool design of the ships, costumes, and weapons. All of them are visually pleasing.



THE VOICE OF **JAMES JONES**



UNREASON EARL SPEAKS

BY GIVING VOICE TO DARTH VADER, ACTOR JAMES EARL JONES SEALED HIS PLACE IN SCI-FI ICONOGRAPHY. NOW, THE MAN WHOSE VOCAL STYLE BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE ULTIMATE IN INTERGALACTIC EVIL LOOKS BACK ON THE ROLE THAT MADE HIM AN ICON. WORDS: CALUM WADDELL

As the voice of the world's most famous cinematic villain, James Earl Jones—now 79 years old—has, for an entire generation of movie buffs, become inseparable from *Star Wars*. Of course, as most readers know, the actor's illustrious career has spanned nearly five decades, beginning with a small turn in Stanley Kubrick's classic 1964 farce *Doctor Strangelove*, and includes a Best Actor Oscar nomination in 1970 for his role in the adaptation of the stage classic, *The Great White Hope*. Furthermore, additional turns in such blockbusters as *Conan the Barbarian* (1982), *Coming to America* (1988), and *The Hunt for Red October* (1990) have succeeded in making Jones one of the most identifiable thespians of recent times.

Recently the performer returned to his self-proclaimed "first love": the theatre, treading the boards six days a week in the London production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Inevitably, this sort of schedule keeps the screen legend busy—although, during his appearance at the annual Glasgow Film Festival as the 2010 guest of honor, he conceded that he never actually had much of a career plan in mind. "I am what you would call a journeyman actor," he begins. "All my life I just took whatever





work came along to me. I am actually a little sorry to admit that I never had any big career goals. Maybe I should have because if you want to be an actor you really need to have all of your marbles together. But I have been lucky to get away with that and I still continue to work that way."

Perhaps unsurprisingly, it was this nonchalant attitude that led Jones to what is probably his most widely-known role. However, somewhat surprisingly, at first the actor was hesitant to admit that it was *his* voice that breathed life into everyone's favorite dark-caped, helmet-clad galactic bad guy. Despite being uncredited on both 1977's *A New Hope* and 1980's *The Empire Strikes Back*, the finally lent his name to the closing credit scroll of 1983's *Return of the Jedi*; few hardened film buffs could fail to recognize the distinctive, deep-throated growl of Jones on the *Star Wars* soundtrack. Consequently, the actor noted that his initial decision not to reveal himself as the voice of Darth Vader had nothing to do with secrecy. "I was basically hired as a special effect," he says. "Dave Prowse was the guy acting as Darth Vader, okay? Why take that away from him?" A gentlemanly comment, certainly, and Jones also revealed that when he signed on to do *Star Wars* he opted to take the offer of a flat fee instead of a cut of the box-office take. In retrospect, that wasn't his best move. "I got paid \$7,000," he laughs. "Now, that was for only two hours work. So to me that was like I was rolling in a bunch of clover. Of course, at the time, I did not know that if I had asked for percentage."

I AM VERY PROUD THAT I WAS A PART OF THE STAR WARS MOVIES!



points of the gross, I would have been a millionaire overnight."

The actor noted that nobody involved in the original classic had any idea that it was going to be as big as it became, even its creator. "I did not expect

Star Wars to become such a phenomenon and nor did George Lucas," he smiles.

"The British crew who worked at Elstree Studios in London never knew either." In fact, it's well-established that much of the UK crew believed they were working on a B-movie that would come and go without much notice.

"I wouldn't go so far as to describe their attitude as being full of disdain, but there was a sense of 'Oh this is just a bunch of Americans making some kids' stuff,'" Jones says. "No one appreciated what it could be. When it did become

huge, it was largely because of kids. It was a movie for young people. But then I guess everybody stopped and thought about what we must have done right, including the voice of Darth Vader. And that led to the sequels!"

Happy to once again lend his vocal talents to *The Empire Strikes Back*, Jones said that his second time around was, in at least one way, an even more surreal experience. "I had always heard that David Prowse had a Scottish accent," he says. "I then discovered he was from Bristol. Now, if you cannot imagine Darth Vader with that kind of accent let me tell you this little story. By the time we did the second episode David Prowse knew that it was not going to be his voice. So he just read the words in a kind of monotone. So the director, Irvin Kershner, decided to lay his own voice over the soundtrack. He thought that would give me an idea of how the character should evolve. Now Irvin's voice is very high pitched and squeaky. Believe it or not it is quite intimidating! I remember thinking, *Now this could be a very scary version of Darth Vader!*"

Naturally, being a big part of one of the most popular film franchises in history hardly hindered the actor's career. In fact, as Jones happily says, it introduced him to a new, lucrative career in voiceovers and villainous turns. "As soon as *Star Wars* hit I got offered a lot of commercials," he reveals. "Everyone saw it, of course, and then I got a call from the promotions department at Chrysler—the car manufacturer. They explained to my agent that they had designed a car called The Laser—and it had dark windows and a dark paint job—so, of course, they wanted a dark voice promoting this thing! They even mentioned that they had Darth Vader in mind. So *Star Wars* opened up a whole new career for me."

Long-time Lucas acquaintance John Milius was certainly taken by *Star Wars* when he opted to cast Jones as the evil warlord Thulsa Doom in *Conan the Barbarian*. "Milius was a great script doctor and for *Conan* he collected a lot of speeches that had been given by famous tyrants," the actor reflected. "I think he had everything that was said

I WAS BASICALLY HIRED AS A SPECIAL EFFECT!





by every tyrant that ever existed, from Shaka Zulu to Hitler and just about anyone else you can name. He asked me to read them all and I was yelling down this canyon on the set in Southern Spain, delivering all of these real-life speeches. It was worth it, though. It helped to develop the character."

Although reticent about speaking out on *Star Wars* in the past, Jones says that he could not be happier with being involved in the series. "I am very proud that I was a part of them," he beams. "I am just glad that I can say I was a little piece of that success, in any way

STAR WARS OPENED UP A WHOLE NEW CAREER FOR ME.

at all." However, he admitted that the awesome presence of Darth Vader is sometimes difficult to escape. "Most people, when they see me, want me to sign something to do with *Star Wars*," he confirms. "But there are a lot of other roles that I cherish and I want

people to see. I think that my favorites are *Cry, the Beloved Country*—which was a flop, unfortunately—*A Family Thing*, and *Field of Dreams*. I love having someone come up to me and, instead of asking me to sign a Darth Vader poster, remind me of a movie that I have completely forgotten. It just warms me. I like to say, 'Thank you for remembering that.'"

Despite lending his voice to the Galactic Empire's supreme warrior, Jones began life with a stutter that once threatened to curtail his acting ambitions. "I suppose that I am a walking irony in a way," he says. "But there are a lot of people who have been born with a weak muscle and by exercising that muscle it became their strongest point. I suppose when you think about it, becoming Darth Vader—after having had a stutter—is a little ironic but, like I say, I'm very proud of being a part of *Star Wars* movies. Very proud indeed."



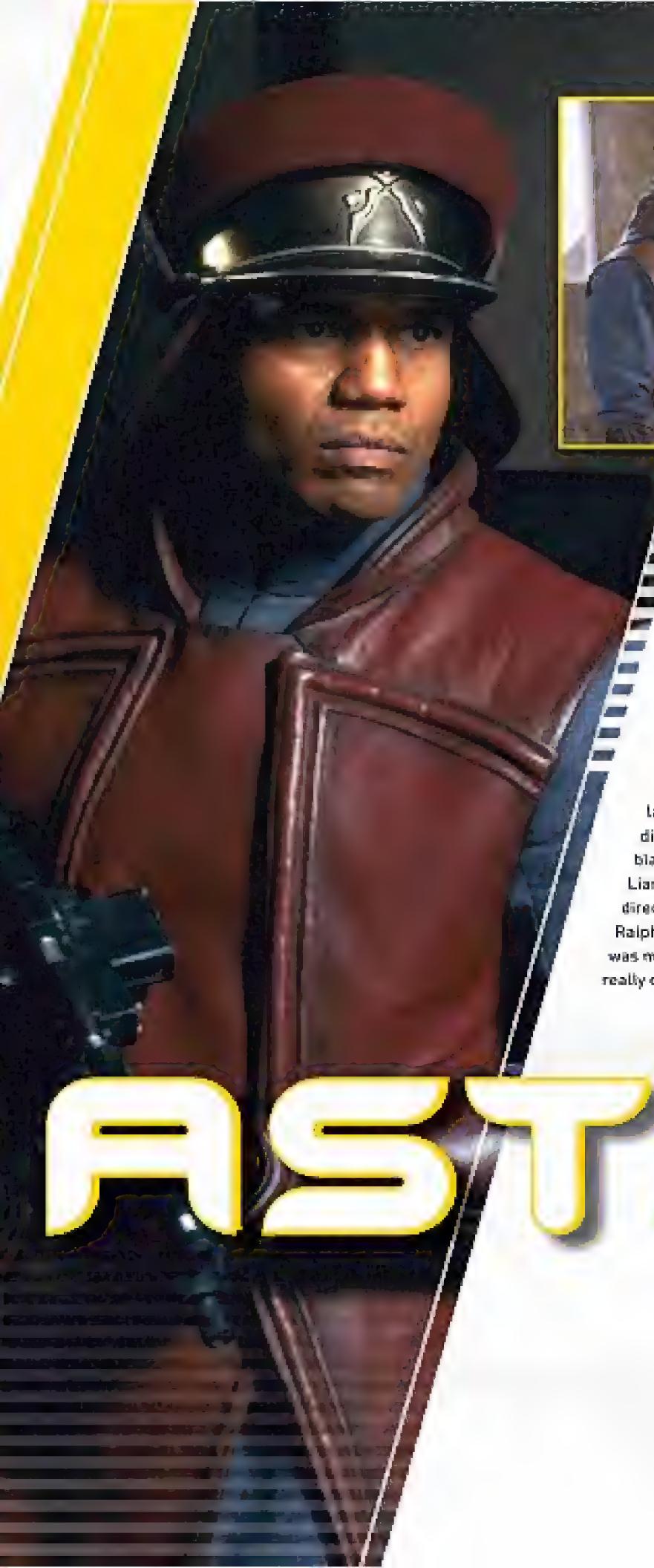


Star Wars Insider:
What attracted you to the role of Captain Phasma?

Hugh Quarshie: It was the first *Star Wars* film for a long time. I'd seen the original films and was blown away by them. Every actor in London wanted to be a part of it. It was a privilege just to get an audition and meet George Lucas. Naturally, I was absolutely delighted to get the role. It's a part of cinema history.

CAPTAIN FANT

A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, HUGH QUARSHIE'S CAREER HAS LANDED HIM ROLES IN THE BRITISH TELEVISION DRAMA *HALCYON* AND THE COOL ITALIAN HORROR MOVIE *THE CHURCH*. HE IS BEST KNOWN BY *STAR WARS* FANS AS THE INFLEXIBLE CAPTAIN PHASMA. WORDS: JAMES BURNS



How was the shoot?

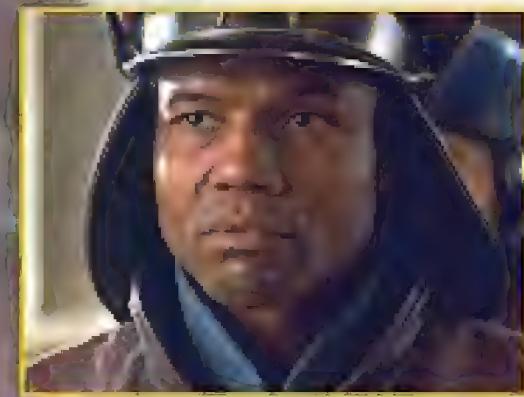
On one level it was very high-tech, and on another it was kind of low-tech. I remember when we were filming the scene where we were escaping from the Trade Federation ships as they were blasting away at the Queen's ship. I jokingly said, "So George, do you want us to move around or are you going to shake the camera?" and he replied, "Oh, we'll do both!"

Whenever we were hit by a laser blast, the first assistant director would say, "Blast, blast, blast." Ewan [McGregor] and Liam [Neeson] would move in one direction, and I'd move in the other. Ralph Brown, who was our pilot, was moving all over the place! It got really comical on set.

ASTIC!



You wore a really distinctive outfit, Yes, and also a very hot one—particularly in the desert in Tunisia. When I took it off, I was soaked in sweat. I was wearing real leather cavalry officers' boots, which were not exactly comfortable. I think I did pretty well to look as cool as I did, because I was boiling hot!



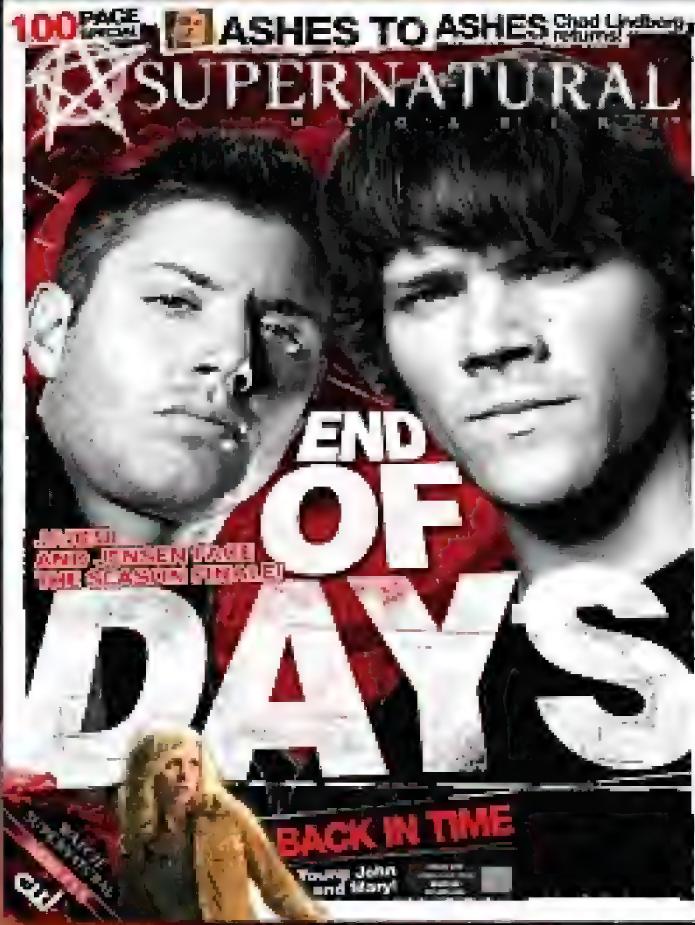
What was your favorite thing about working on Episode I?

There was a moment when I was sitting on some steps in Naples with Liam Neeson. A couple of fans were gesturing to see if they could talk to us. I beckoned them over, assuming that they wanted Liam's autograph, but it turned out they were actually big fans of some horror movies I'd made! It was a fun moment and Liam was very gracious about it. ☺

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THE HOLOCRON

Holocrons first appeared in the comic series *Dark Empire*, published in 1991–1992 by Dark Horse Comics.

THE KAYBUR MEMORY CRYSTAL

This episode features the "Kaybur memory crystal." The initial drafts of the screenplay of *A New Hope* featured the Kyber crystals: a Force-focusing artifact. Although written out of subsequent drafts, a version of this idea appeared in the novel *Splinter of the Mind's Eye* as the Kalburr crystal.





• *Mobiles* •

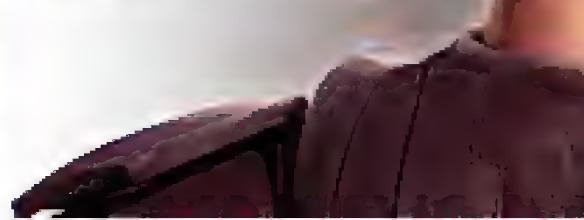
The mobile over the Gungan toddler's cot includes a colo clawfish and a sando aqua monster. These underwater beasts can be seen during the journey through the planet's core sequence in Episode I.



• *Locations* •

This episode revisits many environments seen in the live action movies. Padmé's apartment (Episode III), the Senate corridor (Episode III) and rotunda chambers (Episode I), the Jedi Council war room (Episode III), and entrance gates (Episode III)

and Cato Neimoidia (Episode III) all feature.



• *Costumes* •





••••• LUMINARA •••••

The nose-art on Luminara's gunship has a clone trooper giving Count Dooku a kick!

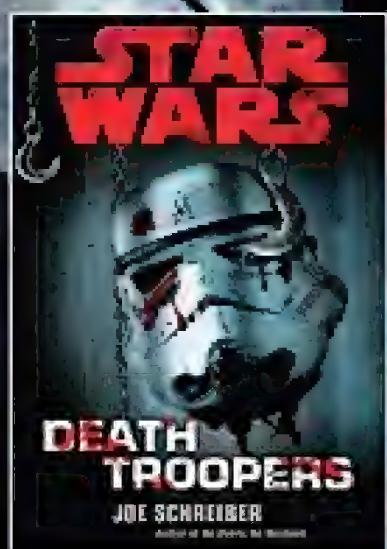
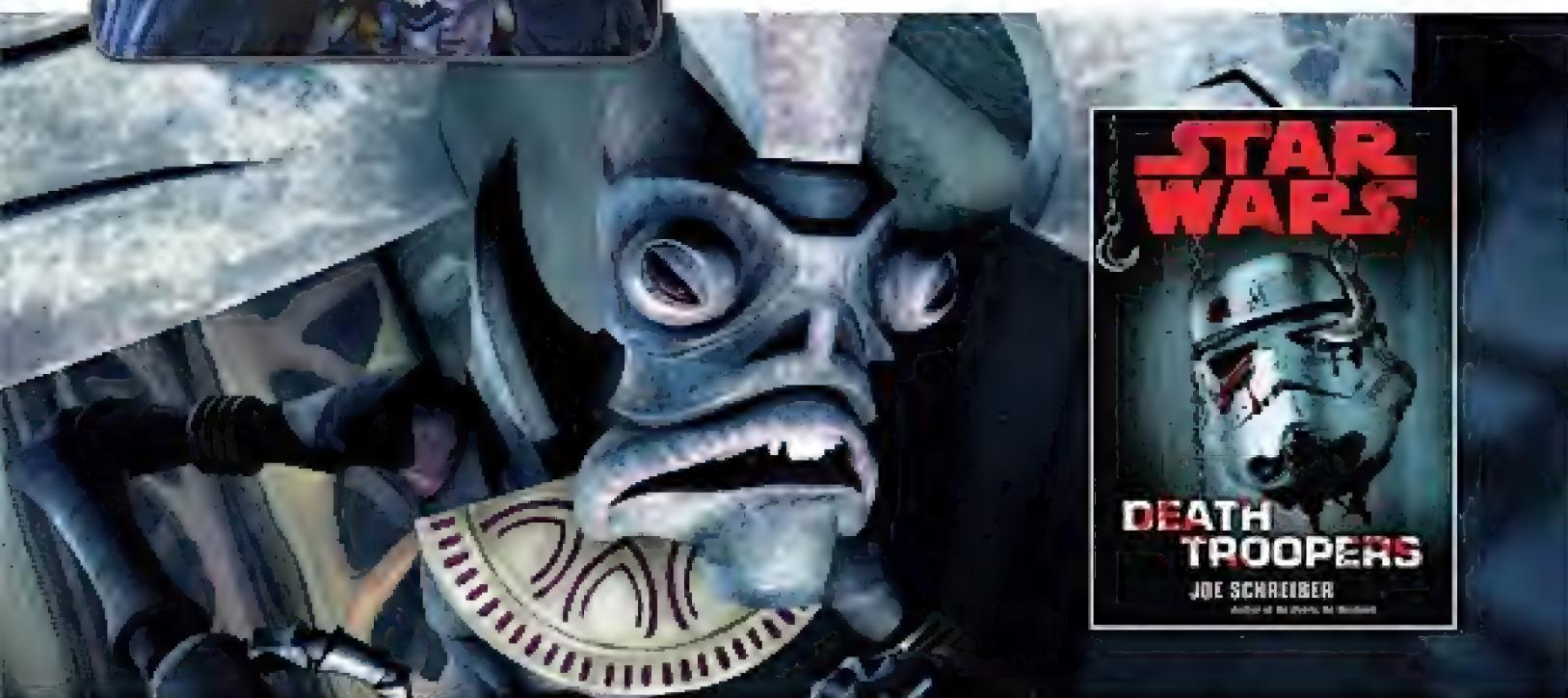
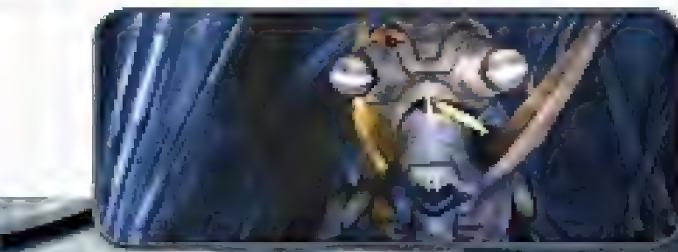
••••• Dooku's Death •••••

Anakin and Ahsoka are said to have arrived from an engagement near Dorin. According to the Expanded Universe, this is the homeworld of the Kel Dor, Plo Koon's species.



••••• DEATH TROOPERS •••••

This is the second *Star Wars* story to feature zombies in 2009. The first was the horror novel *Death Troopers* released by Del Rey in October.



—The Jedi Council’s Hidden Jedi

Mace Windu’s efforts on Dantooine and Kit Fisto’s knowledge of Ord Cestus are two minor nods to the Expanded Universe. During the first *Clone Wars* micro-series Mace fights a droid army on the plains of Dantooine, and the novel *The Cestus Deception* features the grinning Jedi Master, Kit Fisto!



—The Jedi Master’s Hidden Jedi

Respected film editor Robert Dalva directed this episode. His many credits as editor include *Jurassic Park III* and *Hidalgo*—both directed by classic trilogy art director Joe Johnston.



—The Jedi Master’s Hidden Jedi

According to the 2003 book, *Inside the World of Attack of the Clones*, Eeth Koth died in a gunship crash on Geonosis. Fans of this Jedi were delighted that he appears alive and well in this episode.

—The Jedi Master’s Hidden Jedi

When Ahsoka is researching underworld thieves, a mugshot of Brea Tonnika, one of the Tonnika sisters seen in the cantina in Episode IV, appears on the monitor.





Obi-Wan's Turbolift Reunion

The elongated shape of the Mandalorian helmets in this episode was inspired by the Boba Fett animation model used in the making of *The Star Wars Holiday Special*.



Obi-Wan's Turbolift Reunion

Deputy Minister Jerec's description of the tumultuous time on Mandalore as "a period of civil war" echoes the original title crawl from *A New Hope*.

Anakin's Star Wars Reunion

Anakin, noticing Obi-Wan's anxiety over his reunion with the Duchess while ascending in a turbolift, recalls the scene in *Attack of the Clones* in which the younger Jedi is teased by his mentor.



Mon Mothma's Return

Mon Mothma, a character seen in Episodes III and VI, was produced as an animation model for this episode, though the air order of *The Clone Wars* had her appear in "Duchess of Mandalore" first.



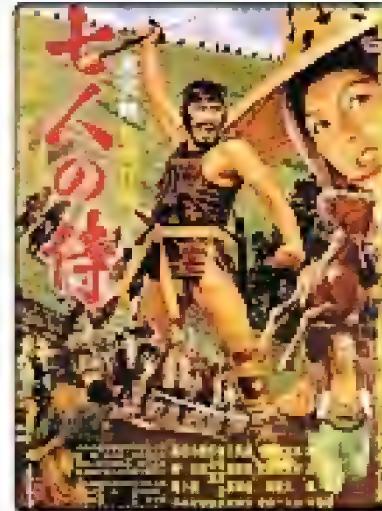
Obi-Wan's Turbolift Reunion

Chronologically, this episode precedes all the others that have been broadcast thus far. "Cat and Mouse" is followed by Season One's "The Hidden Enemy" and then *The Clone Wars* feature film.



Star Wars: The Clone Wars

The episode begins with an unusual title card, specifically mentioning Akira Kurosawa, an influential film director admired by George Lucas. The original *Star Wars* was very much inspired by the works of Kurosawa, particularly the 1958 movie *The Hidden Fortress*.



Star Wars: The Clone Wars

When the Zillo Beast first surfaces, it tramples a clone trooper who emits a distinctive scream. That sound effect is affectionately called "the Wilhelm." It's a decades-old audio recording that has become a pet sound effect to many sound editors and appears in all the *Star Wars* features.

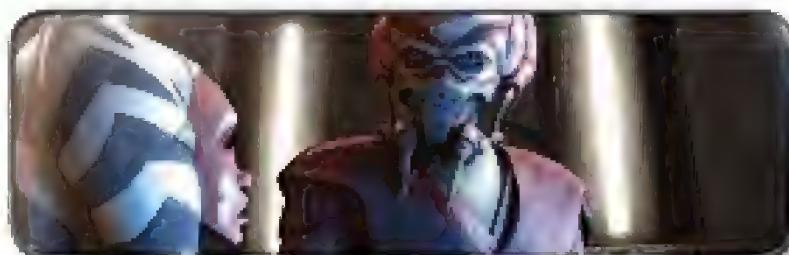
Star Wars: The Clone Wars

The droids tending to the Zillo Beast include re-purposed heavy labor droids first seen in *Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith*.



Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Admiral Killian was named after *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* concept artist Kilian Plunkett.



Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Plo Koon mentions the Hydian Way, a navigational hyperspace route that was created in the Expanded Universe.

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Hondo Ohnaka's cluttered office and desk are inspired by Dave Filoni's cluttered workspace.

STAR RETRO WARS

YOU SEEK YODA!

THE DIMINUTIVE JEDI MASTER HAS LONG BEEN A FAVORITE WITH COLLECTORS. WORDS AND PICTURES: GUS LOPEZ

For the past 30 years, Yoda has remained one of the most popular *Star Wars* characters of all time and a frequent choice by collectors who specialize in character items. Yoda collectibles range from artistic to tacky, clever, and downright bizarre.

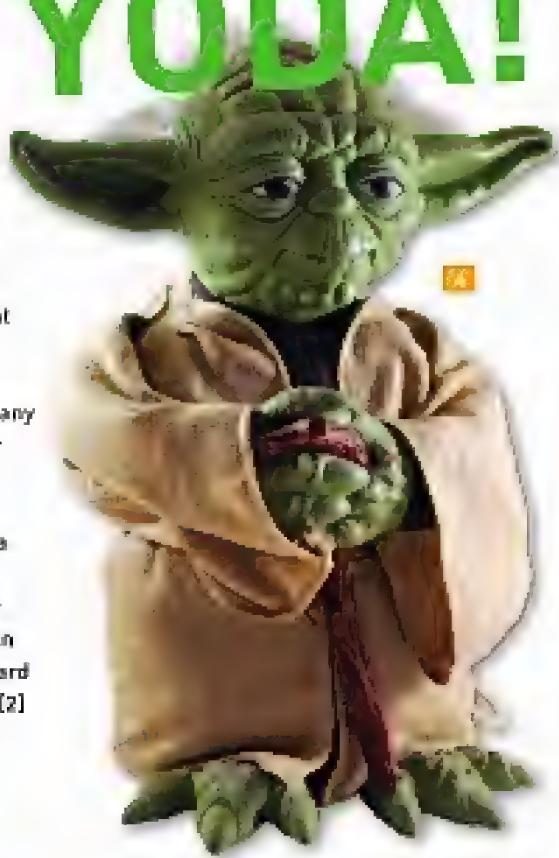
One of the first Yoda collectibles was the legendary Yoda Ears Cap by the Thinking Cap Company. This item is known to exist in four colors (red, green, blue, and yellow) and was geek chic on the playgrounds in 1980. [1]



Lucasfilm frequently enlisted Yoda for its highly-coveted holiday cards that were sent out by company executives. [2]



The 1980 and 1981 cards featured Yoda in a Santa suit based on different paintings by Ralph McQuarrie. The image of Yoda as Santa became so memorable that the Kurt Adler company issued a figural ornament years later based on the concept. Hasbro even produced a holiday action figure of the McQuarrie Yoda as Santa. [3] Yoda resurfaced on the Lucas companies holiday cards some 20 years later for Lucas Digital in 2002, and Lucasfilm in 2002 and 2003. The 2003 Lucasfilm card shows Yoda staring at a constellation. [2]



It's hard to imagine that any Yoda toy under consideration would not be released, but Kenner was guilty of that at the height of *The Empire Strikes Back*'s popularity.

Kenner designed a pull-string rubber and plush Yoda doll with eight recorded expressions from *The Empire Strikes Back*. A handful of samples were made, and it was shown to some retail buyers, but before going to production Kenner cancelled the product. The quality and detail on this toy rival anything from the Kenner line at the time. As a result, the talking Yoda is one of the most highly sought unproduced toys from the vintage Kenner years. [4]



For the next film, Yoda featured prominently on crew stickers and patches with the working title "Revenge of the Jedi." The patches were later made available to fan club members in limited quantities. Since the Yoda patch contains one of the most popular characters from the saga, alongside the short-lived "Revenge" title, it became an instant collector's item in early 1983. Bootleggers soon caught on and issued their own versions of this highly desired patch. [6]

The "Yogurt" character from *Spaceballs* is not only a pun-laden parody of Yoda, but he also foreshadowed Yoda's future on Star Wars food products. Yoda

appeared on several different yogurt containers over the years, starting with the gooseberry low-fat yogurt for *Return of the Jedi* from Dairy Time in the United Kingdom. For *Attack of the Clones*, Yoplait made Star Wars "Go-Gurt" tubes in the form of lightsabers based on different characters in the film. Yoda appears on the Banana

Split tube. A similar concept called "Frubes" was offered by Yoplait in the United

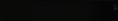
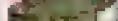
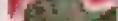
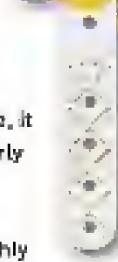
Kingdom for *Revenge of the Sith* where Yoda appears on two different yogurt tubes. For *The Clone Wars* micro series, there were a variety of yogurt products throughout the world. Some of the most unusual varieties were the Yogurísimo

containers from Argentina that combined cereal and yogurt, available in two varieties with Yoda. [6]

Yoda appeared on a wide range of other food items as well. Some of the least known were the Star Wars ice-pop sticks from Frigo in Spain for the Star Wars Special Editions. Instead of using stock photography, as was common by the late 1990s, Frigo decided to apply unique artwork on each stick, including a colorful Yoda stick. Among drink-related products, Pepsi made a lifesize Yoda statue for *The Phantom Menace* promotion that was so widely distributed that this item is

still easy to track today.

In Japan, Pepsi's licensee Suntory released a number of soft drink-related products with Yoda, the most unusual consisting of a small Diet Pepsi Twist soft drink can issued at the time of *Revenge of the Sith*. [7]



INSIDE CLOUD CITY

INSIDER EXPLORES THE LABYRINTHINE CORRIDORS OF
CLOUD CITY AND DISCOVERS SOME SURPRISING SECRETS.
WORDS: J.W. RINZLER



G

iven the economic and logistical limitations of making *The Empire Strikes Back*, production had to re-use the same few hallways built for Cloud City several times for many scenes. By the time director Irvin Kershner and his cast and crew arrived on Elstree's Stage 2 in May 1979, they were over budget and behind schedule. No new corridors could be built and scenes had to be shot as quickly as possible.



Because the film's story is so gripping, hardly anyone would notice that characters are often walking down a hallway, turning a couple of corners, and walking down the same hallway. However, by slowing down the film for analysis, one can see the tricks of the trade. For example (Figure 1, Figure 2), Han Solo, on the same walk, goes past the same window twice; a stairway filmed from a different angle can also appear in two shots for different scenes (Figures 1 and 3).





Figure 5

In one shot [Figure 5], Lando accompanies Leia and friends down a corridor; later Luke sneaks through the same set, now in a blue light to denote a new corridor [Figure 4].

"Although we had quite a few corridors for Cloud City, one often wants to make a set look bigger than it really is," says director of photography Peter Suschitzky. "In one particular shot, I wanted to make the return into the same corridor look like a different one. So while the camera was 'round the corner, I worked out a series of light changes to be done rapidly during the shot. By the time we got back into our old territory, it looked like a new and differently lit corridor."



Figure 6

On another occasion, the same set is used for fleeing Cloud City denizens [Figure 6] and, later with slightly different framing, a shootout [Figure 9]. Throughout the Cloud City portions of the film, a corridor with a sculpture in its center is seen several times, slightly altered for each shot [Figures 7 and 8].



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

Figure 10



Figure 11



The same corridor was shot in several setups for various scenes by having its gray, textured ceiling panels replaced with illuminated panels for later shots (Figure 10, 11, 12, 13).

Figure 14



Figure 13



The biggest set piece on the set—a circular art deco-style construct—was lit from within with various colored lights or replaced with different designs so it could be used in several scenes (Figures 14, 15, 16, 17).

Figure 16



Figure 17



EXPANDED UNIVERSE

For more behind-the-scenes stories, read
The Making of The Empire Strikes Back
on sale October 2010.



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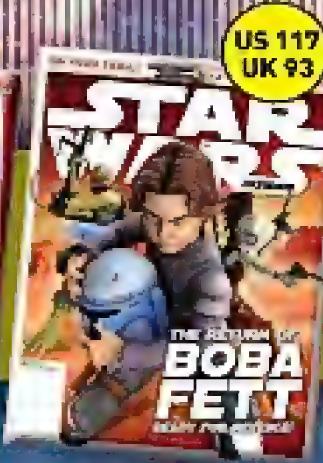
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JEDI ARCHIVE

RARELY SEEN IMAGES FROM THE LUCASFILM ARCHIVES



From top left: C-3PO at Jabba's palace; the complex system that brought Threepio to life in *The Phantom Menace*; actor Silas Carson (Ki-Adi-Mundi) and Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) relax off-set. Main Image: the droids feel the cold in the corridors of Echo Base! ↗

CELEBRATING CELEBRATION



HOW OUR FAVORITE FAN FEST BEAT THE ODDS TO BECOME A *STAR WARS* INSTITUTION
BY SCOTT CHERNOFF

Like many who worked at or attended the chaotic party that was the first *Celebration*, I will never forget the experience. I've worked at three of the *Celebrations*, but to tell the story, I had to go back to the beginning. So I contacted the four guys who truly made it happen:

Dan Madsen, who was president of the Official *Star Wars* Fan Club and publisher of *Star Wars Insider* from 1987 through 2001; Jon Bradley Snyder, who worked for Dan at the Fan Club and was Editor-in-Chief of

Insider; Steve Sansweet, who had recently become head of fan relations at Lucasfilm; and Anthony Daniels, who has played C-3PO since 1977, and was a key member of the team that started the tradition.

Steve Sansweet: Jim Ward, who was the head of marketing at Lucasfilm, said, "Why don't we do something for the fans?" I said, "Let me talk to Dan Madsen and see what might be possible." Dan said, "That's funny, because Jon and I have been talking about an event prior to the release of *Episode I* that would involve the fans."

Jon Bradley Snyder: There had always been an idea that it would be great to have a *Star Wars* convention. I was really for it. I felt very strongly that it was important.

Dan Madsen: My initial reaction was, "Wow, we'd really be up for that," but my next thought was, "What have I gotten myself into? I've never put on a live show before."

*With his hands already full preparing the Fan Club magazine, and a new online store for the release of *The Phantom Menace*,*

THE STAR WARS ATTACK



Dan decided the convention had to be held in the town where his business was located: Denver, Colorado.

Malvitz: We didn't have a whole lot of time to do it. This was the fall of 1998, and we wanted to hold the event maybe a month out from the opening of *Episode I* [scheduled for May, 1999].

There was one major obstacle: securing a location capable of accommodating thousands of people at short notice. Dan's team found the

solution—an aeronautics museum on the decommissioned Lowry Air Force Base.

Snyder: We had to come up with a creative idea, and that's when we found the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. I thought it would be cool to have *Star Wars* intermingled with all these fighter jets and planes from the real world.

Snyder: The hangar was a couple hundred thousand square feet, but that was not big enough for what we were doing. We ended up having

to erect tent buildings for all the vendors and programming. We came up with this plan to drop an X-wing right down amidst all these other planes.

Malvitz: The near-life size X-wing [built in Germany for a video promotional tour] is there to this day. LucasFilm made a deal with Wings Over the Rockies to keep it on display permanently, so fans can still see it.

Beyond the X-wing fighter, the team set up everything from exhibitor

and dealer areas to a Star Wars kids room, a video room highlighting never-before-seen content, the debut of Hasbro's new *Episode I* action figures, free-play on the three vintage arcade games based on the original Star Wars trilogy (and demos of the latest *Episode I* games), and a slew of *Episode I* cast and crew members, including fan favorites Warwick Davis, Ray Park, producer Rick McCallum, and Ahmed Best, who wowed the crowd at an after-hours rap hip-hop show called the Jar Jar Jam.

Perhaps the biggest coup was signing Anthony Daniels as Master of Ceremonies. The actor even helped plan the programming for the event.

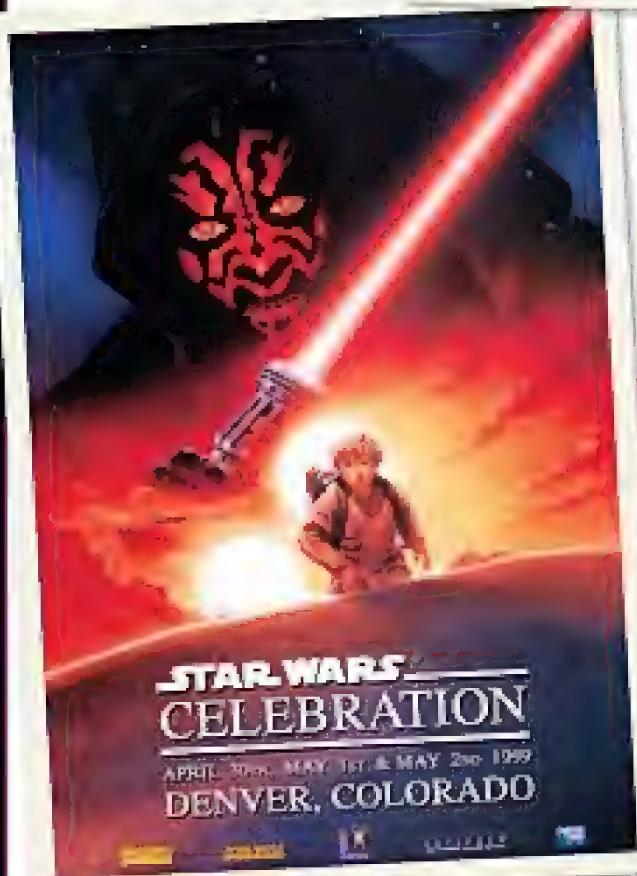
Sansweet: The program grid wasn't even put together until those last two weeks when I flew to Denver. Anthony Daniels came in, and the four of us basically laid out Celebration right then and there.



I was working for Dan and Jon at Insider. I was in my office in L.A. when Jon called. He said Anthony was going to be the MC of Celebration. I had no idea what he meant, since I had never been to a fan convention of any kind before. I didn't want to sound dumb so I said, "That's awesome." Then he said they wanted me to take the second stage—they knew I had done some TV commercials at that point and had live comedy experience, plus I had already interviewed most of the cast and crew for the magazine. It's a good thing I didn't know the job of MC means you are onstage talking all day!

Less than two weeks before Celebration was to begin, news broke of a horrific event—the shocking school shootings at Columbine High School in the Denver suburb of Littleton.

Sansweet: I got called into Jim's office after Columbine, and I could see there were a bunch of grim-faced people sitting in there. Jim said, "Steve, we've come to a very difficult decision. We're going to have to cancel Celebration."



Madsen: Jim said he and Gordon [Radley, then Lucasfilm president] had been talking. He said Denver's in a state of mourning, and we can't come in there and start celebrating. Immediately, my heart was in my throat. I said, "Jim, that would be the wrong thing to do."

Snyder: We said, "Wait a second, let's think about this. *Star Wars* does not celebrate violence. To cancel because of this very negative thing that's happened is like admitting *Star Wars* means something I don't think it means."

Daniels: The Mayor of Denver told Lucasfilm, "The city needs your show. This tragedy cannot dominate the lives of the people."

Snyder: I found the uncle of a kid who had been shot at Columbine, and he said, "My nephew is the biggest *Star Wars* fan in the world—if this thing doesn't happen, we'll be crushed."

Madsen: Jim said, "Let me go talk to George. We'll let you know our decision tomorrow."

Sansweet: Gordon left the decision totally up to Jim. The next morning,



Jim came in and my heart seemed to stop beating until he said, "We're gonna' go."

Ultimately, nearly \$30,000 was raised for three memorial funds from fan donations at *Celebration*, along with matching funds from Lucasfilm, Hasbro, LEGO, and PepsiCo. A rule was imposed upon all fans out of respect for the victims: no blasters—or gun replicas of any kind—were allowed.

The event's second brush with cancellation would come on opening day, when the show was almost shut down by Mother Nature herself. It was the biggest rainfall Denver had received in 50 years, according to the weather forecasters.

Sansweet: We got two days of gully washers, and the site turned to mud. Parking was on the old lawns, which had turned to mud. The tents started leaking—they couldn't hold up under that kind of weather.

*Everything planned for the outside area had to be canceled. This only amplified the problem of the main hangar not being big enough to hold everybody. People were still standing in line, either to get into *Celebration*, or to get into one of the tent structures. Anthony Daniels braved the rain, too—he went up and down the lines to greet people.*

Daniels: There were people in Nimsy T-shirts. I shook hands with them, and they were so cold, their touch was scary. I started to feel overwhelmed by their courage and their human warmth. They were drenched, but they were going to see it through.

Opposite page from top: The Slave Leia and another willing victim! Organizer Dan Madsen braves the rain. *Celebration* poster art by John Alvin. This page: Left: Some little Lukes join in the fun! Below: Wow! Just wow!

Anthony was first up with the Opening Ceremonies, and my first interview on day one wasn't scheduled until 1:00 p.m. At 9:45 a.m., Jon told me, "Scott, we're going to open the doors to get everybody out of the rain.

I need you to go on at 10." What was I supposed to do, I asked him, onstage for three hours with no guests? His words were a terrifying call to arms: "Wing it!" I took questions.

For three hours. It was kind of insane, but also kind of awesome. The fans were just excited to be there, so they were a great crowd.

Madsen: Rick McCallum could see I was just devastated. But he had dealt with all kinds of weather problems as a producer, and he said, "I wouldn't have it any other way. I guarantee you years from now they're going to say, 'I survived *Star Wars* Celebration. I stood in the rain and the mud,' and it's going to bring the fans together, like their *Star Wars* Woodstock."

Sansweet: *Star Wars* fans are a hardy bunch. They like to get together with other *Star Wars* fans, and that has been the secret of all *Celebrations* to date.

Daniels: I felt there was a brotherhood there, and it still exists. People come up to me sometimes and say, "I was at *Celebration* I," and I look at them with huge pleasure and pride. It really was one of those situations that brought out the best in people.

Photos by Karen Louis, Joe McDonald, Kathy Von Brummen, Nicola Lowe, G Scott Campbell, Calvin Roe, Jannin Fife, and the *Celebration* photo archives.





25 YEARS OF THE FORCE

Celebration II arrived three years later, just in time for Episode II's release in May, 2002.

Sansweet: I remember opening Celebration II by guaranteeing people that, unless I lit a match under a sprinkler, it would be much dryer than the first one.

One of the first decisions to be made was hiring the person who would be most responsible for running the operations part of the show. Steve turned to Mary Franklin, a fellow fan who had been doing public relations in Alaska and had run the now-defunct

Clockwise:
Celebration II's epic poster;
A Padawan hits the pizza;
A Rebel protects an X-wing;
Padme's on parade;
An Ewok chills out;
Scott Chermak, author
Cecil Castellucci
and Billy Dee Williams.

CELEBRATION II

Star Wars Online Fan Club. This time the event took place in the modern and spacious Indianapolis Convention Center.

Mary Franklin: I was amazed at how many fans came—they estimated 27,000 people.

Some of the cool stuff included Rick McCallum showing footage of the digitally-animated Yoda for the first time, an appearance by Carrie Fisher, and a visit to the floor by an incognito Hayden Christensen.

Sansweet: Hayden and his brother were interested in seeing Celebration from a fan perspective, so we got them stormtrooper helmets, and they walked around. It was pretty funny.



For me, the definite highlight of Celebration II was the great Lando-Lobot reunion of 2002. I learned from Mary that I was slated to interview Billy Dee Williams, one of my Star Wars heroes, as well as (at a different time), John Hollis, who played perhaps my favorite peripheral character in the Star Wars saga, Lobot. I had interviewed the actor who played Lando's right hand cyborg for Insider, and I knew he hadn't seen Billy Dee since they worked together on the set of Empire. So during Billy Dee's interview, I surprised him by bringing Hollis out on stage. Let me tell you, the crowd went nuts. I was freaking out, too.



CELEBRATION III

Three years later, Celebration returned to Indianapolis just in time for the 2005 release of Episode III. Aboard were Lucasfilm superstar Warwick Davis and Episode II and III's Captain Typho, Jay Laga'aia, as Masters of Ceremonies.

Sansweet: We decided to keep it in Indianapolis, and again it expanded into more space. We had a full room for *Star Wars* in Pop Culture and the R2-D2 builders. Things like the costume contest and the art show, which had been in small rooms for Celebration II, expanded into major activities and got proper places, and they've become fixtures at Celebration.

There was a very special guest at this Celebration.



Sansweet: Celebration III, of course, is also notable for George Lucas attending. This was the convention that people waited outside the



night before, and it snowed! Eventually at 3 a.m., we brought people inside. George was super. He really enjoyed himself. That's the first place he revealed

there would be a *Star Wars* animation series and that he was considering a live-action

Clockwise: Getting ready to see a special guest; George Lucas shares a moment with a lucky fan; Lucas takes to the stage; the R2-D2 builders meet Lucas and Rick McCallum (reclining in blue); Warwick Davis meets a little Leia; Look sir, Droids!



series. It was all pretty amazing.

With Lucas' visit, there was no doubt that the *Star Wars* Celebration had come into its own.

Sansweet: I think Celebration III really cemented what the pattern would be, and gave us all a feeling that there was life beyond the prequels for Celebration.



EXPANDED UNIVERSE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Steve Sansweet and Mary Franklin are both still at Lucasfilm, planning future Celebrations (among many other things!)

Dan Haden is helping launch *Her Universe* (*heruniverse.com*), a line of sci-fi-themed clothing for women designed by Ashley Eckstein, the voice of Ahsoka Tano in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. Look for them both at the *Her Universe* booth at Celebration IV.

Jon Snyder is serving his first term on the City Council of Spokane, Washington, his hometown, where he also founded and publishes the outdoor activity magazine, *Out There Monthly*, as well as the Go Green Directory. Check out his latest do-goodism at outtheremonthly.com.

Anthony Daniels has been touring the world as Master of Ceremonies for *Star Wars: In Concert*, and continues to voice the golden droid C-3PO on *The Clone Wars*.

Scott Charnoff most recently worked on TV's *The Tonight Show* with Conan O'Brien, where he wrote and produced skits for Conan's monologues for the run of the show. He has appeared on TV shows for Comedy Central, Adult Swim, ABC, NBC, and lots of other fun stuff you can watch and read about at his web site, scottcharnoff.com.

It's not the only Celebration vet who went into politics—former Lucasfilm marketing head Jim Ward has been running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, hoping to represent Arizona's 5th Congressional District.

CELEBRATION IV

The time had come for *Celebration* to move on—and I was happy to learn that *Star Wars* was coming to my town, Los Angeles, to celebrate the saga's 30th anniversary in May, 2007.

Sansweet: We took over the entire Los Angeles Convention Center. We had about a million square feet there. The Convention Center was so big it didn't even look that crowded, even though we had 35,000 unique attendees.

*I got to interview lots of amazing Star Wars cast and crew members, as well as Seth MacFarlane (who brought the first half of *Family Guy*'s *Star Wars* episode to debut), Seth Green (who did the same with some *Robot Chicken*), and once again, the great Billy Dee Williams—who kissed me on the lips, live on stage, after I screened a video, previously*



Clockwise: Steve Sansweet lets the fur fly; A samurai stormtrooper wows the crowds as Marilou Hamill (far right) looks on; guest R2-D2; the awesome costume pageant!

aired on TV's *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, of me *intertwined* with Billy Dee on a romantic date together. Someone posted the kiss on YouTube.

Sansweet: My overriding memory is the first showing of footage from *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. Dave Filoni cut something together over a weekend, and George said, "That's great, let's show it." It raised the roof!



CELEBRATION EUROPE/JAPAN



Steve and Mary then took their show on the road—staging Celebration Europe in London later in 2007, and then Celebration Japan in Tokyo the next year.

Sansweet: The space we got in London was much smaller, and yet we had a huge crowd, with lots of families. It was great fun.

Franklin: In London and Japan

the fans were more patient about standing in line, but when we opened the doors, I saw the same enthusiasm and excitement.



Clockwise:
Celebration Europe key art by Randy Martinez. Leia and R2-D2 reunited; That's no balloon...

Sansweet: I always wanted to do something in Japan. I had Japanese friends and fans coming up to me crying and saying, "We thought this was going to be a huge failure. We thought that nobody could put on a Celebration in Japan because it's not the Japanese way of doing things, but this is wonderful!"



THE BIGGEST PARTY THIS SIDE OF THE GALAXY!

CELEBRATION V

The fifth U.S. Celebration will take place August 12th through 16th in Orlando, Florida.

Sansweet Orlando made sense because it is a destination resort, because people are used to going to Florida from Latin America, and because there's so much to do down there that families can extend their vacations. We're

working with Walt Disney World as a "Last Tour to Enter" event that will be very cool and exciting. Plus, the Convention Center there is fantastic, and we have a strong new partner, Reed Exhibitions, the largest trade show company in the world, with offices in 32 countries, which augurs well for the future. We hope to do future Celebrations with them.

JOIN THE PARTY!

For up to the minute details,
go to www.starwarscelebration.com

ARREST OF A SITH



WHY IT'S A CLASSIC

Even more than the moment when his body was rebuilt and he first donned his breathing apparatus at Palpatine's Surgical Reconstruction Center, this is the real tipping point where Anakin becomes Darth Vader, Lord of the Sith. During this confrontation in the Chancellor's office, Palpatine and Mace are like the angel and devil on Anakin's shoulders, battling for his soul. However, Mace's anger makes him seem like the aggressor heading toward the dark side, while Palpatine's play-acting as a weak, defenseless old man makes him appear the innocent victim. Anakin thinks that he's doing the right thing, following the Jedi way, but realizes too late what he has done. There is no going back for him, at least until his eventual redemption in *Return of the Jedi* when in an act of symmetry he hurls Emperor Palpatine to his death surrounded by Force lightning, just as Mace Windu died at Palpatine's hands here.

WHAT THEY SAID

"Sam Jackson wanted a very spectacular death [scene]. That was the only thing he requested, other than a purple laser sword. So, it was an easy thing to do in the nature of the way this sequence works, but he was very involved. He just didn't want to be killed in the dead of night, you know, stabbed in the back or something."

George Lucas, *Revenge of the Sith* DVD audio commentary, 2005

INT. CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PALPATINE stands, a laser sword appears out of his cloak sleeve, and he spins toward the JEDI.

PALPATINE: It's treason, then.

A close shot of Palpatine as the fight begins. Close shots of THREE JEDI getting cut down by PALPATINE.

MACE and PALPATINE fight their way down the hallway and into the main office area.

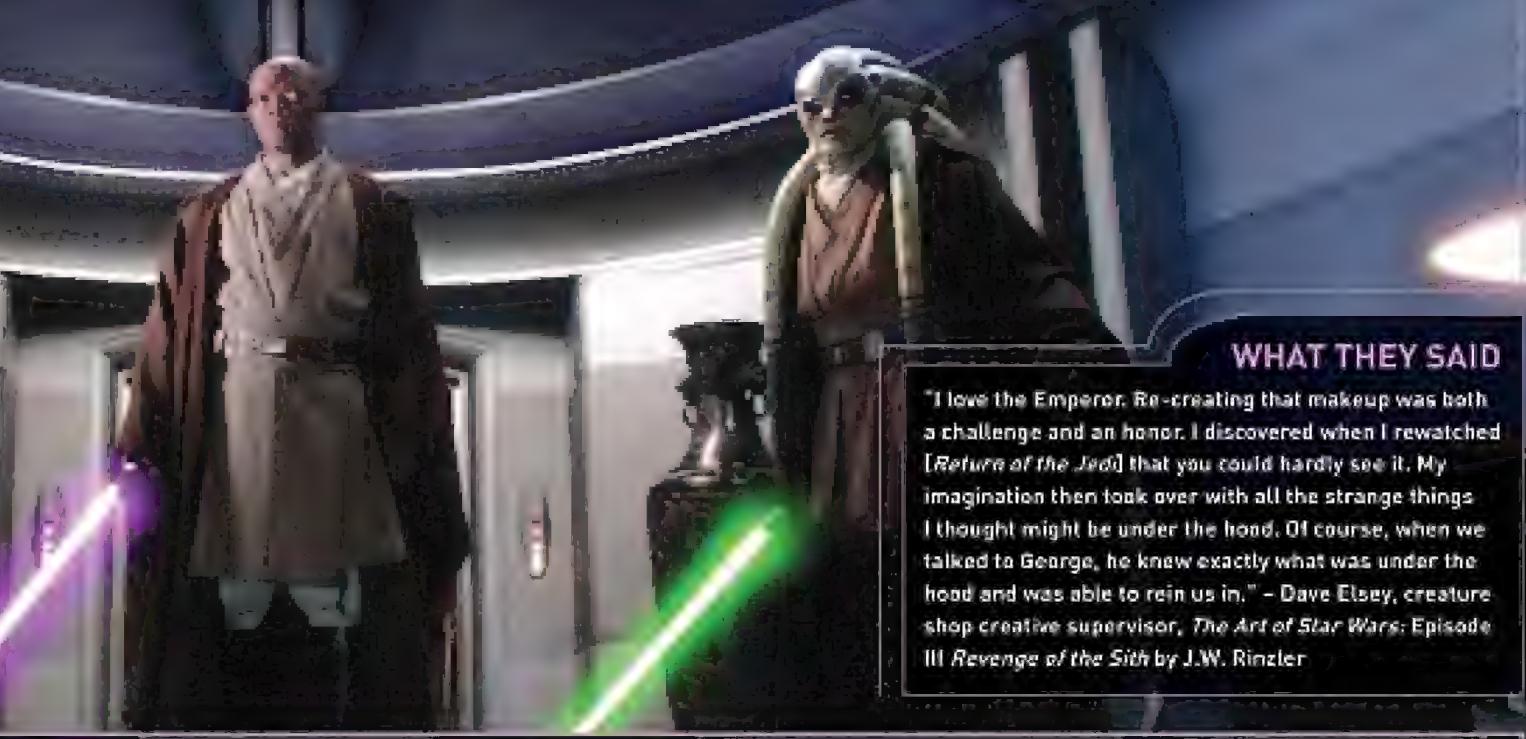
PALPATINE is able to use the Force to slam MACE against the wall, but he recovers before the Chancellor can cut him down.

ANAKIN lands his speeder, jumps out, and runs down a long corridor.

In the heat of battle, MACE cuts the window behind the Chancellor's desk, and it crashes away. MACE is forced out onto the ledge, which is twenty stories up. They fight over the precipice. ANAKIN arrives to see PALPATINE and MACE fighting. They stop as MACE forces PALPATINE to drop his sword. PALPATINE and MACE start

CLASSIC MOMENT

STAR WARS: EPISODE III: REVENGE OF THE SITH DVD CHAPTER 27



WHAT THEY SAID

"I love the Emperor. Re-creating that makeup was both a challenge and an honor. I discovered when I rewatched *[Return of the Jedi]* that you could hardly see it. My imagination then took over with all the strange things I thought might be under the hood. Of course, when we talked to George, he knew exactly what was under the hood and was able to rein us in." — Dave Eisey, creature shop creative supervisor, *The Art of Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith* by J.W. Rinzler

yelling at each other.

MACE: You are under arrest, My Lord.

PALPATINE: Anakin! I told you it would come to this. I was right. The Jedi are taking over.

MACE: You old fool. The oppression of the Sith will never return. Your plot to retain control of the Republic is over. You've lost.

PALPATINE: No! No! You will die!

PALPATINE raises his hands, and lightning bolts shoot out. They are blocked by MACE's lightsaber. PALPATINE is pushed back against the window sill.

PALPATINE: He is a traitor, Anakin.

MACE: He's the traitor. Stop him!

PALPATINE: Come to your senses, boy. The Jedi are in revolt. They will betray you, just as they betrayed me. You are not one of

them, Anakin. Don't let him kill me. I am your pathway to power. I have the power to save the one you love. You must choose. You must stop him.

MACE: Don't listen to him, Anakin.

PALPATINE: Help me! Don't let him kill me. I can't hold on any longer. Ahhhhhh...

MACE pushes PALPATINE out to the edge of the ledge. As the Jedi moves closer, the bolts from Palpatine's hands begin to arch back on him. The Chancellor's face begins to twist and distort. His eyes become yellow as he struggles to intensify his powers.

PALPATINE: I can't... I give up. Help me. I am weak... I am too weak. Don't kill me. I give up. I'm dying. I can't hold on any longer.

MACE: You Sith disease. I'm going to end this once and for all.

ANAKIN: I can't kill him, Master. He must stand trial.

MACE: He has too much control of the Senate and the Courts. He is too dangerous to be kept alive.

PALPATINE: I'm too weak. Don't kill me. Please.

ANAKIN: It is not the Jedi way...

MACE raises his sword to kill the Chancellor.

ANAKIN: He must live...

PALPATINE: Please don't, please don't...

ANAKIN: I need him...

PALPATINE: Please don't...

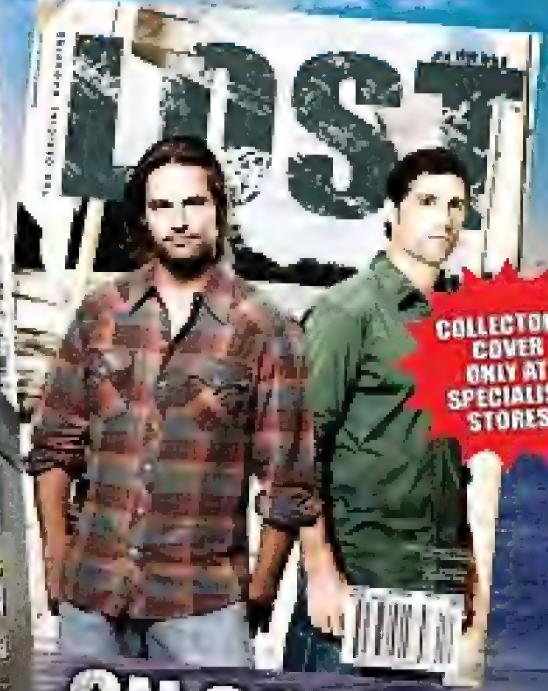
ANAKIN: NO!!!

Just as MACE is about to slash PALPATINE, ANAKIN steps in and cuts off the Jedi's hand holding the lightsaber. As MACE stares at ANAKIN in shock, PALPATINE springs to life...

NEXT TIME: "I LOVE YOU." "I KNOW."

INSIDER 57

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EDITED BY NEIL EDWARDS

BLASTER

62 COMICS

END OF AN ERA

STAR WARS: LEGACY CLOSES A CHAPTER!

60 BOOKS

Explore the Old Republic before the MHO in *Fatal Alliance*, and find out who's who from Aavin to Zorba the Hutt with *The Complete Star Wars Character Encyclopedia*.

70 SUPER7

Stormtroopers get the Super Shagun treatment.

72 BOUNTY HUNTERS

Meet the stars, show the evidence, win the bounty!

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By the fans, for the fans!

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Star Wars insiders' top five choices!

66 INCOMING

THE LATEST STAR WARS GEAR YOU'LL WANT TO OWN!



"THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD BLASTER AT YOUR SIDE, KID."

BOOKS

GET A JUMP ON THE NEW MMO WITH *STAR WARS: THE OLD REPUBLIC: FATAL ALLIANCE* WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE

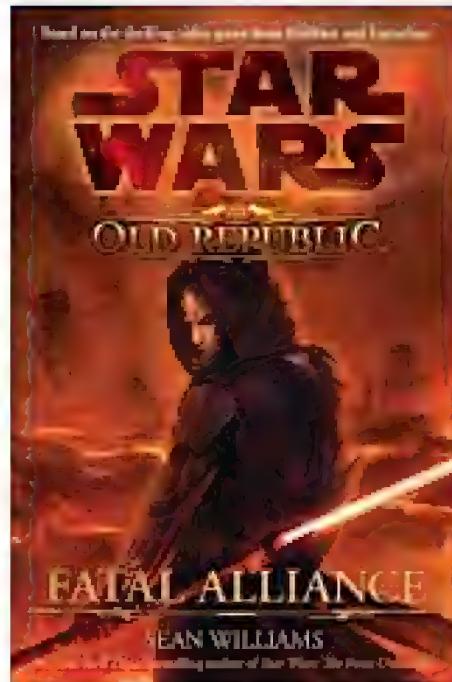
"The Old Republic is beyond epic. To capture even a fraction of it would take a dozen novels."

A LONG TIME AGO...

LucasArts and BioWare made gaming history in 2003 with the critically-acclaimed *Knights of the Old Republic*, and the two will soon apply the same magic to the massively-multiplayer online genre with *Star Wars: The Old Republic*. Fans who can't wait to dive into the game's vast new world can buy an early ticket with the novel *Star Wars: The Old Republic: Fatal Alliance*.

Written by Sean Williams (author of the *New York Times* #1 bestseller *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed*), *Fatal Alliance* chronicles smuggler Jet Nebula's efforts to secure and sell a priceless treasure. This brings him up against the Hutts, the Sith, the Jedi, and the Mandalorians—all of whom play key roles in shaping The Old Republic's gaming experience and in defining an environment set more than 3,500 years before the *Star Wars* movies.

"Getting most if not all of the player classes into the story was certainly something I was keen to do," says Williams. *The Old Republic* will allow players to experience the game as a Jedi, a Sith,



a smuggler, and more, so *Fatal Alliance* incorporates class-specific details to help explain the relationship between the factions. "Finding a natural means of bringing the classes together was difficult, hence the story of a mysterious artifact uncovered by a smuggler that touches on the lives of all these different people," he says. "I also tried to introduce characters at the beginning of their journeys, just like the players of the game, in the context of a vast situation that's got the whole galaxy in a mess. There are a lot of balls in the air, and a lot of reveals on the way."

As an MMO, *The Old Republic* will present a vast, expandable universe where players can sign up for planet-hopping adventures or simply go off on an excursion at their own pace. "The Old Republic is beyond epic," says Williams. "To capture even a fraction of it would take a dozen novels. *Fatal Alliance* distills some of the coolest themes and characters into a story that stands alone, but will also whet the appetite of the gamer. From here, it's up to you!"



ASK LOBOT



AS RELATED TO LELAND Y CHEE

Who shot Threepio on Cloud City? The voices didn't sound much like stormtroopers!

By Leland Y Chee

We know that by *A New Hope*, not all the stormtroopers are Jango-based clones of the prequels. From the EU, it is established that other clone hosts were selected in addition to Jango Fett, while other stormtroopers were actually

recruited and were not clones. That explains why the original trilogy stormtroopers don't sound like actor Temuera Morrison.

And maybe you aren't the only one to find the original "Who are you?" voice to be a bit jarring. This might explain why the line sounds like it has been redubbed to sound a little less gruff in *The Empire Strikes Back Special Edition*.

FROM ANAKIN TO ZIRO

BECOME AN INSTANT EXPERT WITH *THE CLONE WARS* CHARACTER ENCYCLOPEDIA

So you're a fan of the animated series *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*? So is everybody else—the series is a ratings monster! In order to prove your credentials as a *Clone Wars* expert, however, you're going to have to show off some serious trivia skills, such as rattling off the name of the farming village on Felucia (Akir) or the manufacturer of Cad Bane's droid Todo 360 (Vertseth Automata).



It's a good thing *The Clone Wars Character Encyclopedia* has your back. Released on June 21, this 200-page hardcover from DK is packed with everything you ever wanted to know about seasons one and two of the hit series. Its character profiles cover everybody from Obi-Wan and Yoda to Ahsoka Tano and Captain Rex, and come complete with dozens of nuggets of new information, from the lore-heavy to the lighthearted. You may be a fan, but did you know that Watto likes to mock



His fellow clone trooper Boil about his "fancy" facial hair?

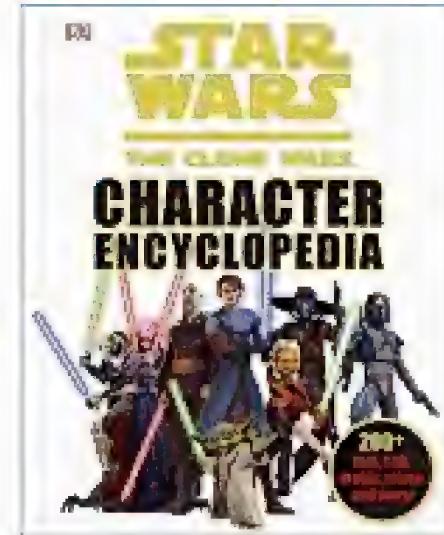
The book covers approximately 200 characters, from Jedi and bounty hunters to Coruscant citizens and clone troopers. Intended first and foremost as a reference for fans of the TV series, *The Clone Wars Character Encyclopedia* also provides insights into

the motivations of the show's major players and their backgrounds. All visuals are annotated with callouts that follow DK's house style.

Writer Jason Fry is the perfect *Clone Wars* loremaster, having already penned *The Clone Wars Visual Guide*, *The Clone Wars Official Episode Guide*, and *The Clone Wars: Ultimate Battles*. For this project, Fry had access to scripts and other behind-the-scenes goodies, but last-minute story changes sometimes threw him a curve ball. "For example, I knew that bounty hunter Embo had a hat that protected his head, but I didn't know that it was an insanely cool ninja Frisbee," he explains. "That's something I totally would have played up! Nor did I know that Embo lived [at the end of his episode]. To make continuity easier I generally shot new information to Lucasfilm so they could fix anything that they didn't want."

Like the animated series itself,

The Clone Wars Character Encyclopedia is written for young readers, but is fully informed with the knowledge that older fans will enjoy it too. "What I've learned is that the most important thing isn't word choice but sentence structure," says Fry. "If you keep the structure straightforward, kids have a much better chance at figuring out what an unfamiliar word



means from the context. Dumbing stuff down generally isn't necessary—and, I'd argue, not a good fit for the source material, as *The Clone Wars* deals with some pretty adult concepts. There's political intrigue and double-dealing, personal betrayal, battlefield

tragedies, and even murder, as well as hope and responsibility and old-fashioned heroism, thank goodness! Kids don't like being talked down to, and they'd be able to spot it a mile away in a book about a show they've watched."

Fry is a huge fan of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, and of all the characters he profiled for the book; his favorite is Obi-Wan. "I think he's really come to life in the series," he explains. "You see his struggles and his self-doubt, as well as his heroism and humor. Throw in his encounters with characters such as General Grievous and Duchess Satine and you have a really intriguing, nuanced character to explore."



COMICS LEAVING A LEGACY

STAR WARS: LEGACY CLOSES A CHAPTER WITH ISSUE #50
WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE

Fans mourning the loss of *Knights of the Old Republic* with issue #50 [see *Insider* #113] now have a second black armband to don as *Star Wars: Legacy* wraps up with its own #50 milestone—all to help Dark Horse Comics clear the decks in anticipation of its 25th anniversary.

"I'd always had it in the back of my mind that we would more or less wrap up most of our current *Star Wars* series by the end of 2010," explains Dark Horse's Randy Stradley, pointing out that the company's 2011 quarter-century anniversary will be marked with new comics launches and other special projects. "A culmination of events including the chance to have the upcoming series *Knight Errant* appear as comics from us and as a novel by Del Rey, made it worthwhile to move up our timeline."

Debuting in 2004, *Star Wars: Legacy* broke new ground by establishing a galaxy where the Sith ruled, the Jedi were fugitives, and the ruler of the Empire was a good guy—all of it set more than 130 years after the movies. It also introduced Cade Skywalker, Luke's descendant who had abandoned his heritage to become a bounty hunter and gradually became a somewhat tarnished hero. Issue #50 is the finale of a three-part story arc that takes Cade to Utapau to trap a Sith poisoner, while Imperial Knight Antares Orco leads a rescue mission to Korriban to save Princess Sia. And Darth Krayt, thought dead in issue #31, might yet have the last laugh.

"Legacy has never necessarily been comfort food," jokes artist and *Legacy* co-creator Jan Duursema, referring to the tortures that Cade and other leads have endured as the larger saga has shaken the galactic power structure from Coruscant to the Outer Rim. "We've ruined Cade's childhood and have done a pretty good job on the rest of his life as well. And Krayt is alive—that can't be good for Cade. *Legacy* does not end in a comfortable way. It seems like a hero's work is never done!"

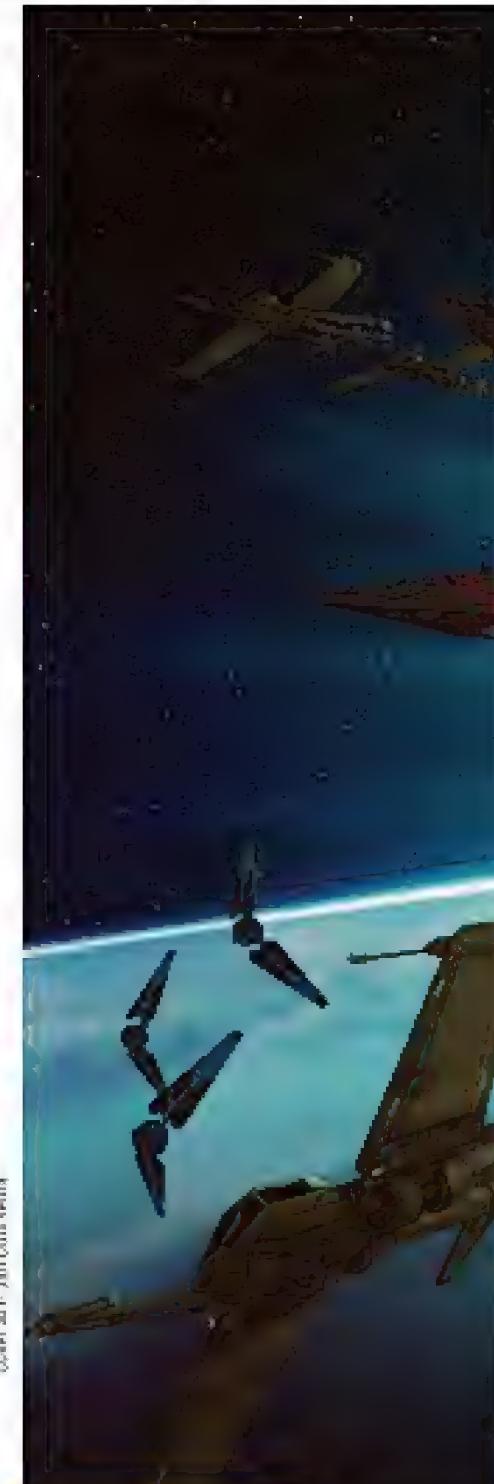
The twisty and often shocking plotlines

that have unfolded over the life of the *Legacy* series have occasionally surprised even its writer. "Sometimes when we think we've got things planned out, life just laughs at us," says John Ostrander (*Grimjack*, *Suicide Squad*), who has penned every issue since the series' launch. "I've often said that the Fates love it when we make plans because it gives them a target. You don't always see what's going to happen until it happens, which is both true for our characters and true for our readers. But it's always been about the story, not just jerking the readers' chains."

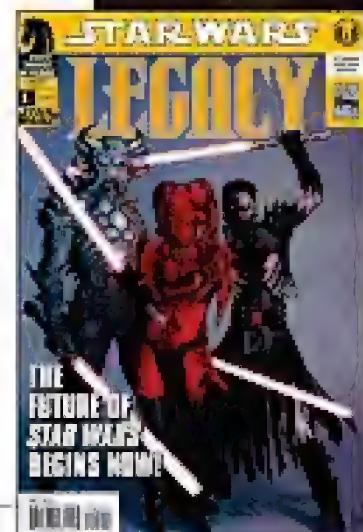
Saying farewell to *Legacy* isn't enjoyable for either Duursema or Ostrander, though Ostrander takes a philosophical view. "Any time you start a series or take over an existing one, you know that you'll have only so many issues," he says. "Either the book will be cancelled, you'll move on, or maybe you'll be replaced." He also hints that issue #50 might wrap things up in an apocalyptic fashion, making the exact nature of any follow-ups unclear. "So certain are you that there will be anything left to explore after issue #50 is over, hmm?" he asks, channeling his inner Yoda.

Adds Duursema, "Legacy has been an awesome project, so I would hate to see this as a goodbye forever to the series. All of the artists who have worked on *Legacy*—including Dan Parsons, Sean Cooke, Omar Francia, Brad Anderson, and myself—have put a lot of work and thought into the look of the era, the characters, and the tech. I think it's an era worth revisiting just for the visual richness of the galactic landscape."

Stradley acknowledges that while this issue represents the end of the *Legacy* series, it isn't necessarily the end of *Legacy*. "As #50 ends, the galaxy will truly be at a tipping point," he says. "The whole situation is begging for a resolution. But we ask readers to be patient. Suffice to say that the end of *Legacy* heralds the beginning of something new."



Cover art: Jan Duursema



Cover A: Adam Hughes

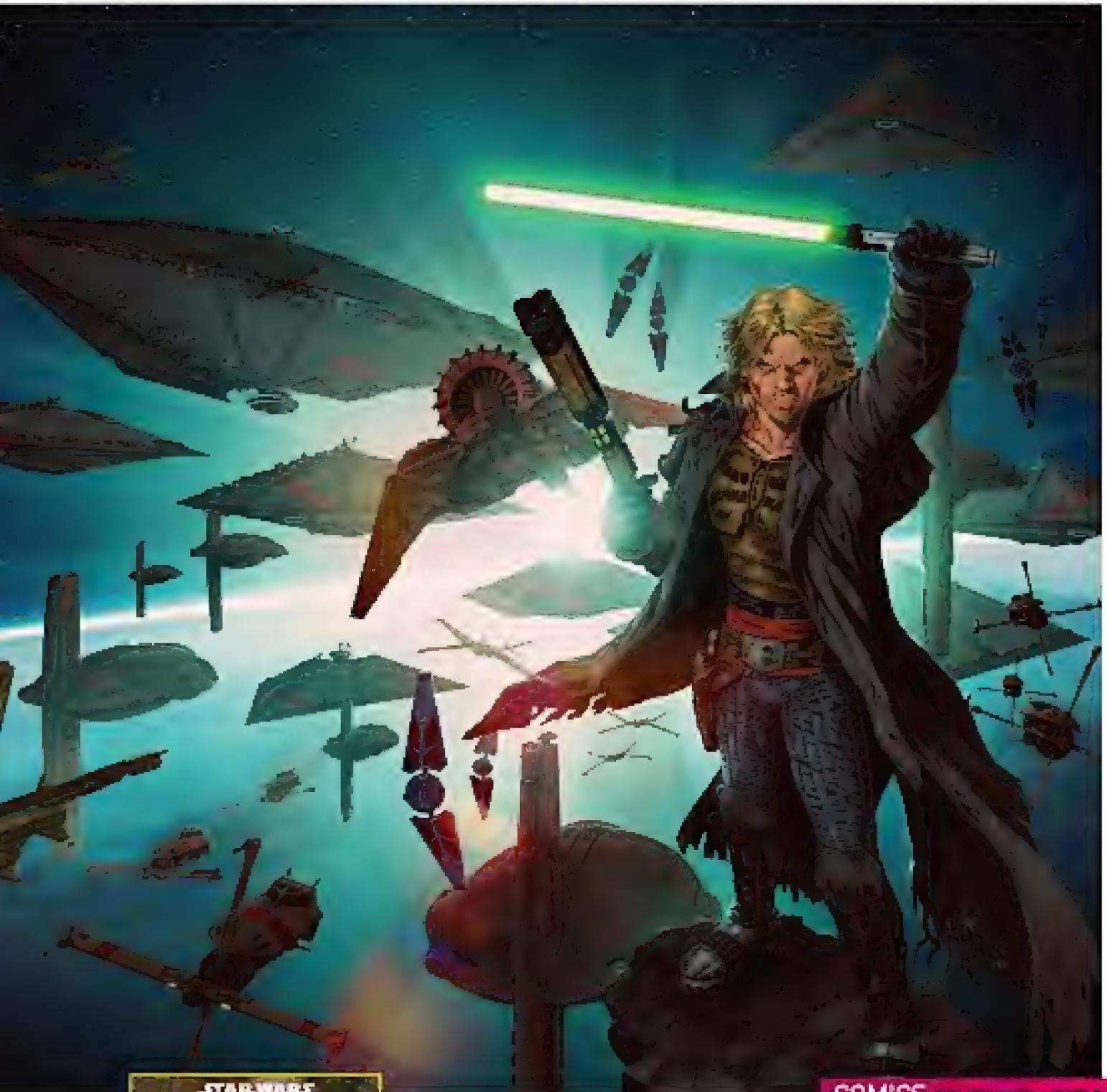


Illustration by Cesar Soto

COMICS CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

BEGINNING OF THE END

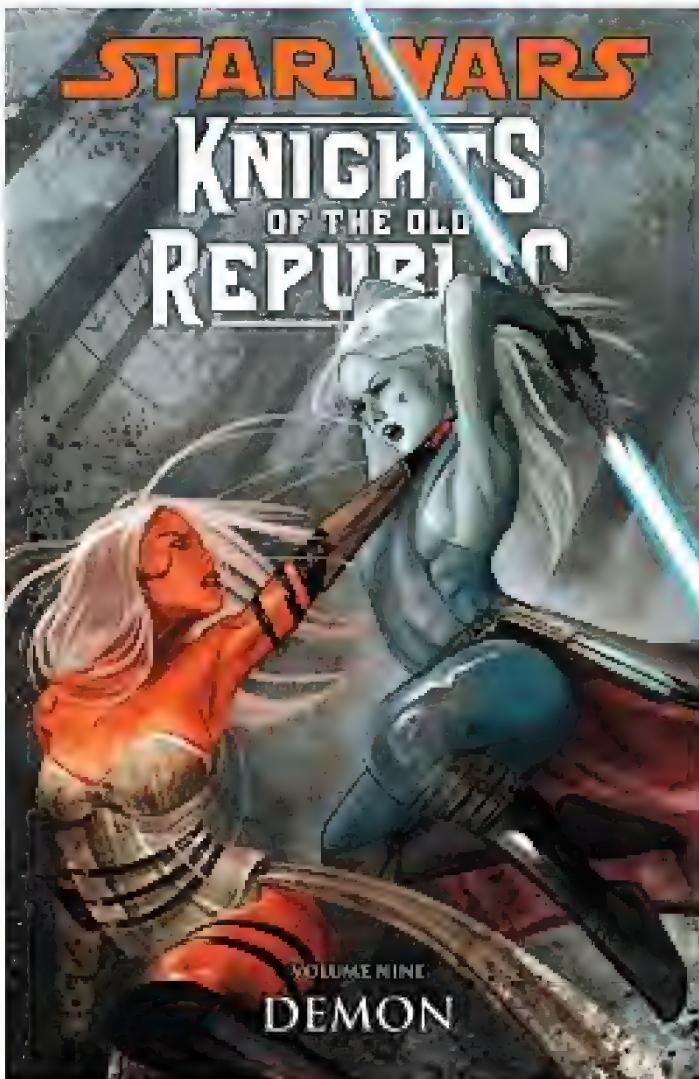
CATCH UP ON LEGACY'S PREVIOUS SAGA WITH "MONSTER"

As *Star Wars: Legacy* tells its climactic tale, fans can get prepped with "Monster," the trade paperback collection of issues #42-46. On the savage world of Wayland, Cade Skywalker encounters a Yuuzhan Vong bio-engineer and mutated wildlife out of his worst nightmares. Meanwhile, the Jedi, the Sith, and loyal Imperial forces clash in a three-way war. The 128-page collection is on sale July 21.

TURNING OUT THE KNIGHTS

THE FINAL ISSUES OF *KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC* ARE NOW IN A BOOKSHELF COLLECTION

Knights of the Old Republic ended its run with issue #50, and this final story arc is now available as the 96-page "Demon." Collecting issues #47-50, the trade paperback by writer and series creator John Jackson Miller (*Mass Effect: Redemption, Star Wars: Knight Errant*) features the artwork of Brian Ching and brings the stories of Zayne Carrick, Gryph, Jarael, and Mandalorian deserter Rohlan to their conclusions.



Cover Art: Benjamin Cant

Art: Brian Ching, Michael Johnson



ASK LOBOT

Why is the recently released Tycho Celchu action figure wearing a Y-wing pilot's helmet when he's supposed to be an A-wing pilot?

ANSWERED BY:

To set the record straight, the helmets that we see worn in the cockpit scenes of *Return of the Jedi* are the official uniforms for the pilots of each type of fighter. The X-wing pilots (led by Red Leader, Wedge Antilles) wear the traditional orange flightsuits, the Y-wing pilots (led by Gray Leader, Horton Salmi) wear gray flightsuits, the A-wing pilots (led by Green Leader, Arvel Crynyd) wear green flightsuits, while the B-wing pilots (led by the unnamed Blue Leader) wear red flightsuits (well someone's gotta wear red, right?). In the briefing room scene, several of the

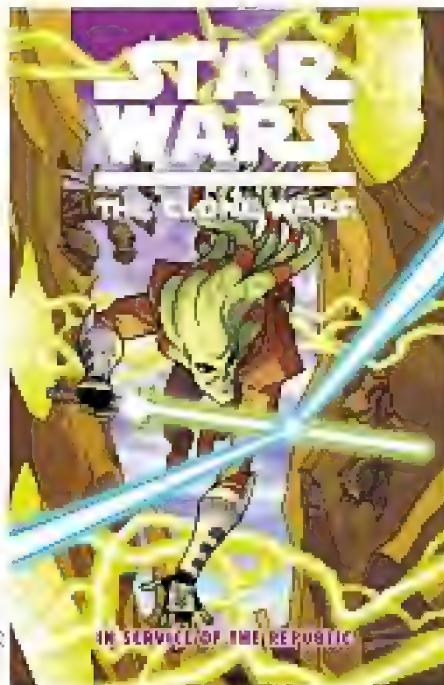
background A-wing extras are actually carrying Y-wing pilot helmets, which is what the artwork on the card of the Tycho Celchu action figure card was based on. This helmet is only worn by Y-wing pilots in all the filmed cockpit scenes.



WHERE JEDI DARE

KIT FISTO AND PLO KOON ASSAULT A MOUNTAIN FORTRESS IN *CLONE WARS: IN SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC*

This would be a suicide mission for even a Jedi Master, but luckily there are two of them! Plo Koon and Kit Fisto lead a Republic commando squad against a Separatist stronghold on the ice planet Khorm, but will assassin Asajj Ventress send them to a chilly grave? This 80-page story, originally published in three installments, is written by Henry Gilroy and Steven Melching and illustrated by Scott Hepburn.



A green rectangular box containing a small portrait of a character's head, likely Lobot, and the text 'ASK LOBOT' in white.

How can the Ewoks talk in the Ewok movies, and yet don't talk in *Return of the Jedi*? I thought the Ewok movies were prequels, so what silenced the little furry critters?

Hi, Mark. That's a great question. Having the Ewoks talk, was important to telling the Ewok's story having a good narrative helped to clarify where it fit into. Perhaps Lucasfilm learned the problems of having stories entirely written in English from the Wookie scenes in the *Star Wars Holiday Special*. For those searching for some sort of interverse explanation, maybe the Ewoks aren't actually speaking Basic, but rather a different language that has been consistently translated to the viewer in their native tongue. What we in the United States know as Basic is actually English. But whenever watching the films in a country where the English has been dubbed, with internet subtitles being their native language, we can see, with any creature, know exactly what Basic sounds like!

A photograph of a person in a green costume, possibly a Ewok or a person in a green suit, interacting with a large Ewok. The Ewok is wearing a headband and has a large, expressive face. The background is a dense forest.

INCOMING

INSIDER PREVIEWS THE LATEST STAR WARS GEAR YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS! WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE

HASBRO

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of *The Empire Strikes Back*, Hasbro will re-launch its vintage 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch action figure line. Wave 1 hits store shelves this fall. Figures in the line include AT-AT commander, C-3PO, Dak, Dengar, Hoth Leia, Boba Fett, cloud car pilot, Darth Vader, Han Solo, and Luke Skywalker.

Also continuing *The Empire Strikes Back* commemoration are two new vehicles—the Rebel Snowspeeder and, for the first time in 30 years, the Bespin Cloud Car. Hasbro's newest Super Deluxe Vehicle is the Imperial AT-AT. Over two feet tall with a movable head

and articulated legs, the All Terrain Armored Transport includes lights, sounds, phrases, and also comes with an AT-AT driver figure and a deploying speeder bike. There are also rotating chin guns, firing projectiles, and a rappel line where a figure can be attached and ascend into the belly of the AT-AT. Both sides of the midsection open up to reveal a two-level command center.



Sideshow 501st Legion: Vader's Fist Clone Trooper 12-inch Figure



An elite unit of clone troopers that came to symbolize the might of the Galactic Empire, the 501st Legion was made up of the soldiers under the command of Darth Vader. This highly detailed figure includes over 30 points of articulation and is estimated to ship in the second quarter of 2010.

Aurra Sing Premium Format Figure

First appearing in *The Phantom Menace*, the mysterious Aurra Sing is a vicious humanoid alien, recognizable by her chalk-white skin and bloodletting fingers. Over 30 inches tall, the Aurra Sing Premium Format Figure captures every detail of the ruthless alien bounty huntress. The figure retails for \$289.99 and ships in the third quarter of 2010.



ASK LOBOT

Why aren't there any female Imperial Officers in the Star Wars movies? —
Luk Empire [REDACTED]

Katie Ford, Toronto, Canada

If we look solely at Episode IV, with the exception of Princess Leia, claims of sexism could equally be leveled against the Rebel Alliance. The demographics of the Imperial and Alliance ranks in the films are more likely due to local casting and



societal norms at the time those films were made. In the EU, the women in the Empire are certainly more visible, though there are some references to the explicit sexism of the Empire. From the cold-hearted Ysanne Isard to the brilliant and efficient Admiral Daala, female officers have played prominent roles in the ever-changing Empire. Aside from officers, other prominent female Imperials work in the shadows, including Mara Jade, Lumiya, and Arden Lyn. In the

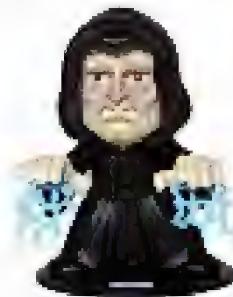
Legacy comics, female Imperials play the roles of a Moff (Nyna Calistis), a fighter squadron leader (Gunn "Gunner" Yagel), the next in line of succession to the Emperor's throne (Princess Marasiah "Sia" Fett), and yes, even a stormtrooper. Another female Imperial officer of note, Maahd Windcaller from *Crimson Empire II*, bears a striking resemblance to then-Director of Publishing for Lucasfilm, Lucy Autrey Wilson. The pantheon of highly capable female Imperials continues to grow, with the most visible addition being Juno Eclipse, one of the stars of *The Force Unleashed* video game.

INCOMING continues next page

INCOMING continues

FUNKO

Funko will release a new wave of Funko Force Bobble Heads in June that includes Emperor Palpatine, Darth Maul, and a shock trooper. Standing approximately six inches tall, each super-deformed character retails for \$11.99.



UNCLE MILTON

Designed to entertain and educate, these new offerings from Uncle Milton teach the scientific workings and applications behind optics, animation, entomology and much more.



Remote Controlled Lightsaber Room Light

The final challenge in becoming a Jedi Knight is to build your own lightsaber. With the Remote Controlled Lightsaber Room Light, young Padawans can construct their own Jedi Lightsaber and mount their creation as a room light on the wall. Eight color effects let kids personalize their lightsaber, and a wireless remote control turns the light on and off. The light is suitable for ages six and up. Suggested retail price is \$24.99.



Death Star Planetarium

"That's no moon; it's the Death Star Planetarium." This tabletop Death Star opens up into a planetary projector to display the cosmos on your bedroom ceiling. Choose to view

Holographic Animation Lab

Make your favorite *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* characters come to life with the Holographic Animation Lab. Learn about animation, the persistence of vision and the principles of a zoetrope, an invention that is nearly 2,000 years old. The Animation Lab comes with 10 animation disks — one side has characters from *The Clone Wars* and the other side is blank so you can create your own moving pictu Suitable for ages six and up, it is priced \$16.99.

The Clone Wars Ant Farm Habitat

The classic Ant Farm gets an update from a galaxy far, far away. Watch live ants dig and tunnel beneath two *Star Wars* planet landscapes from Season Two of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*—Geonosis and Felucia. As always, Ant Farms are connectable, break-

resistant and escape-proof. Clean tunneling sand and clear connecting tubing are included; just mail in the coupon for live harvester ants and let the digging begin! The ant farm is suitable for ages six and up, and priced \$14.99.

ACME "Hunted"

This limited edition giclée on canvas by artist William Silvers depicts the Empire's most wanted, Luke Skywalker, hunted by Darth Vader. Available as a 95 piece hand-numbered edition signed by the artist, it comes with a certificate of authenticity. The piece measures 15" by 30." It is available framed at a retail price of \$350. An unsigned paper version measuring 12" by 24" retails for \$175.



"Vader Shogun"

The Japanese samurai elements of the classic Darth Vader costume are taken to an extreme in this limited edition giclée on canvas by artist Tsuneo Sanda, depicting Vader as a shogun warrior. Available as a 75 piece hand-numbered edition, each piece is signed by artist Sanda and comes with a certificate of authenticity. The giclée measures 18" by 26", and is available rolled, stretched, gallery wrapped, or framed. Retail price is \$375 for the canvas, or \$185 for a signed paper edition.



"The Princess' New Clothes"

Princess Leia is displayed to Jabba and his hangers-on in her slave girl costume by Bib Fortuna in this Limited Edition giclée on paper by artist Patrick Schoenmaker. A 50-piece hand-numbered edition, it comes with a certificate of authenticity. It measures 15" by 30" and is available framed for \$225. A 9" by 18" paper version retails for \$95.



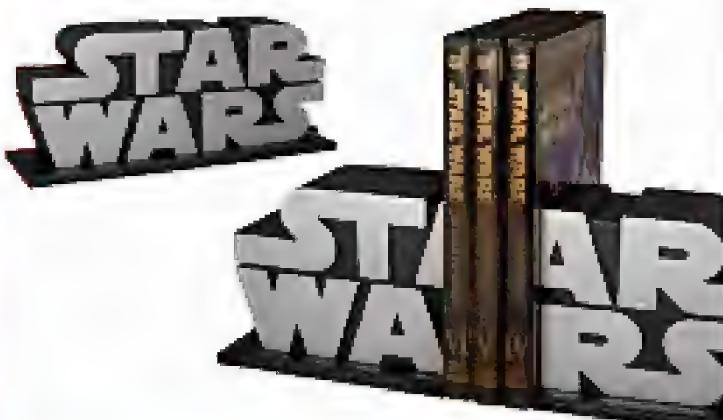
LEGO Hoth Wampa Set



Beginning in July, LEGO brick builders can celebrate the 30th anniversary of *The Empire Strikes Back* with this classic scene. While on scouting duty on Hoth, Luke Skywalker is captured by a ferocious wampa ice creature. Help him use the Force to recover his lightsaber and help pilot Zev Senesca save him using the snowspeeder. The set includes a wampa ice creature and Luke Skywalker.

GENTLE GIANT

These *Star Wars* Logo Bookends were created by the artisans at Gentle Giant exclusively for Borders. Made of durable cold-cast polystone, this limited edition set of 5,000 units comes hand-numbered with a certificate of authenticity and retails for \$60.



SUPER TROOPER



TOY COMPANY SUPER7 COMBINES STAR WARS CHARACTERS WITH THE JAPANESE SUPER ROBOT AESTHETIC. DIRECTOR OF LICENSING FRANK SUPOT EXPLAINS HOW THE FIRST AUTHENTIC SUPER SHOGUN IN OVER 25 YEARS CAME ABOUT. WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE

"The stormtrooper design is probably the most robotic-looking non-droid in the classic series, so it was a good aesthetic fit."

Star Wars Insider: How did Super7 decide to revive the Super Shogun with this Star Wars interpretation?

Frank Supot: As with anything Super7 produces, we want to manufacture cool stuff that we love, and there are few things we love more than giant robot toys! Brian Flynn—who founded Super7 and is a lifelong collector of Star Wars and Japanese vinyl figures—has dozens of sketches of original robots that he created specifically to develop into Shogun Warriors, also known as Jumbo Machinders.

The stormtrooper design is probably the most robotic-looking non-droid in the classic series, so it was a good aesthetic fit. We thought it would be an awesome character to kick off the line with.

What were the biggest challenges in developing it?

The biggest challenge was producing

the stormtrooper using the same materials and manufacturing techniques as the original Shogun toys. Almost no figural toys are produced today using polyethylene, and even fewer with a "blow-molding" technique. Yet that tactile feel of the plastic is intrinsic to the Super Shogun experience. No company has made a true Jumbo Machinder in over 25 years, so finding a factory that could produce this toy authentically was more difficult than we'd imagined. We were constantly given engineering suggestions and asked to consider different materials, but we knew that would betray the spirit of the project. This item's been in development for two and a half years!

What can fans expect?

The Star Wars Stormtrooper Super Shogun stands 24 inches tall, and includes all the features you'd expect from an authentic Jumbo: free rotating wheels on his feet.



and a spring-loaded Rocket Punch fist. The figure is articulated at the neck and shoulders and includes a removable, highly detailed BlastTech E-11 blaster, which features a moveable stock. Each stormtrooper is individually numbered as part of this one-time limited edition production run. As a special bonus, metallic foil stickers are included to allow you to customize the torso with the character name in English or Japanese.

Next up is a true fan-favorite character we can't wait to see realized in Super Shogun form: Boba Fett! Fett's going to be dynamic—his armor allows for many possible features! We're currently running a poll to decide on the third in the line. Fans can visit starwars.super7store.com to cast their vote!



What is a "Jumbo Machinder"?

Jumbo Machinders are a series of giant robots and other Japanese sci-fi characters (similar to giant, transformable toys released throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. The first Jumbo debuted in 1973 and was based on the extremely popular *Mazinger Z*. With its towering size and missile-firing features the toy was an immediate hit, and the Jumbo phenomenon was born.

BOUNTY HUNTERS



BOUNTY WINNER! YOU CAN'T REPLACE ARTOO!

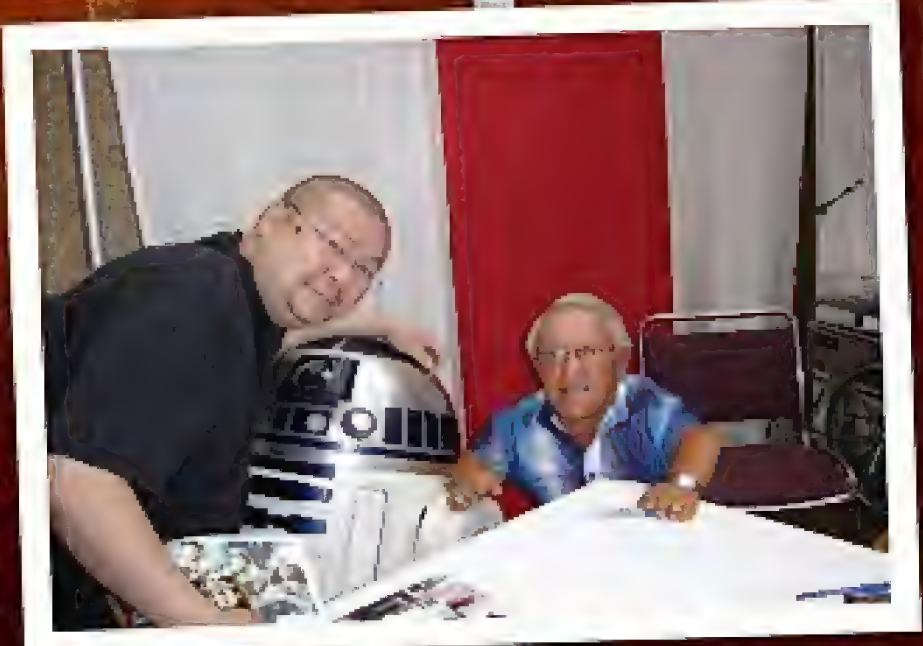
I don't usually go to conventions. I'm even a member of the "Alliance of Star Wars fans who don't go to conventions" Facebook group! But in the spring of 2005 I went with some friends to a comic convention here in Toronto. I had absolutely no idea who would be at this show until I saw a promo banner announcing the celebrities attending the event; and to my surprise, I saw the name Kenny Baker! I combed the aisles for something for him to sign, bought a DVD of *Attack of the Clones* and returned to claim my spot in line.

As my turn approached I was 10 years old again, reliving the first moment my eyes saw that little blue and white droid. Mr. Baker was kind and friendly, taking a moment with each person to chat a little, pose for a photo, and, of course, sign autographs. He indulged me while I babbled on about *Star Wars*, *Time Bandits*, *Labyrinth*, and other works of his. As I thanked Mr. Baker, I paused to offer my condolences for his late wife Eileen. He took my hand, gave me a soft smile, and thanked me. We chatted for another moment and then I left, those childhood memories still bouncing around.

I've been a loyal Star Wars fan for over 32 years and I can tell you it only takes a moment with one of your beloved heroes to make those years vanish. Carl Baptista, Toronto, Canada



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WALKING TALL!



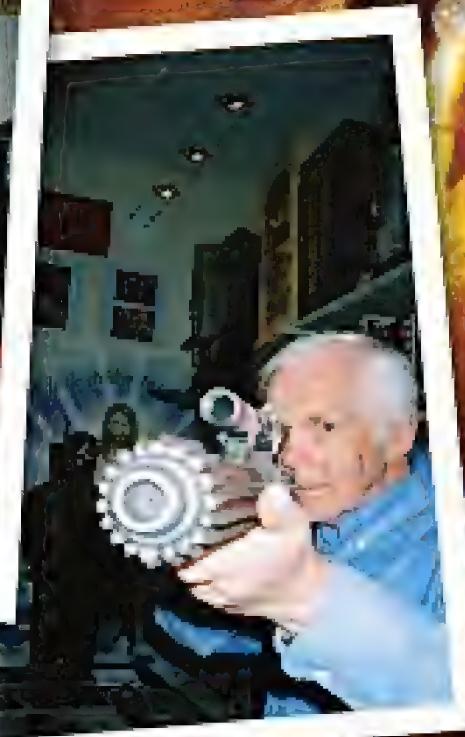
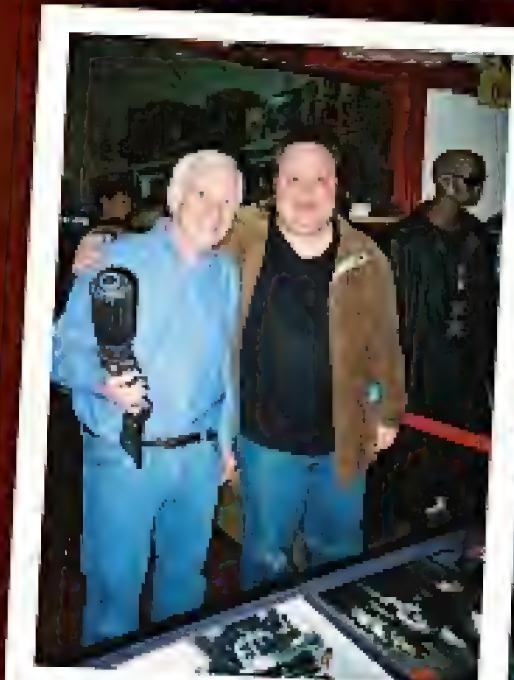
I got this picture of Bruce Spence (Tion Medon) and myself a couple of years ago at a convention in Brisbane, Australia. He happily chatted with me for a while before posing for this photograph. At 6' 7" he makes me look short! As well as playing Tion Medon in *Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith*, he also played Trainman in *The Matrix Reloaded* and the Mouth of Sauron in *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, making him unique by acting in the last movies of the big three film trilogies of the time.

James Manning,
Brisbane, Australia

NO DISINTEGRATIONS!

These awesome photos were taken on March 20, 2010 in the Monster Movie Store in Nottingham, England. I had the privilege of speaking with Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett) for a considerable time. My autograph from Jeremy, on a cool photo, read "Hi Nicholas, He's no good to me dead. Jeremy Bulloch, Boba Fett." May the Force be with you! Nick Batman, via email

DAN'S THE MAN!



OUT OF THE BLUE!

On March 28 I got to meet everyone's favorite blue Jedi, Amy Allen (Jedi Master Aayla Secura) at the Edmonton Toy and Comic Show in Edmonton, Alberta. I thought I'd send it along to you guys to take a look!

Cody Schiltzroth, via email



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VOL
451

BANTHA TRACKS

BY THE FANS,
FOR THE FANS.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, FAN-ACTION!



BY THE FANS FOR THE FANS

Star Wars fans and *Bantha Tracks* readers spend plenty of time in service to their communities and behind the scenes fueling the success of events. They know how to work hard and play hard. But at times, they are the stars, front and center.

It is my privilege to be a liaison with the fan costuming groups when our partners, licensees, and even our own divisions request the unbeatable atmosphere created by their spot-on, movie-real costumes.

Time and again these fans and their costumes have been largely—if not solely—responsible for making an event, or TV show, or commercial shoot a complete success. Fans have built new armor for events for the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* television series, and to help promote the upcoming MMO *The Old Republic*. Even when the call comes last minute, they have a remarkable ability to pull off what is asked of them; and let me tell you, they succeed.

It's hard to ignore Darth Vader leading a squad of stormtroopers (and Snoop Dogg) down a sidewalk in Manhattan. It's equally hard to ignore a brilliant *Star Wars*-themed float escorted by fans in spectacular costumes. Can you look the other way when Darth Vader delivers your press materials? Or hurry past when you spot a Jawa at an ice hockey game?

We didn't think so. Why hide it? Step up front fans, and into the spotlight.

STORMTROOPERS STEP UP IN MANHATTAN

Story and Photos submitted by Steve Iervolino.

On a frigid February 4, the worlds of *Star Wars* and hip-hop joined forces in New York City, as members of the 501st Legion and legendary rapper Snoop Dogg stormed the Big Apple for the launch of the Adidas Originals *Star Wars* sneaker and apparel line.

Battling decked out to troop in Foot Locker's headquarters in Herald Square.



GET IN TRACKS!

Empire City Garrison (ECG) helped organize the event, and in addition to more than a dozen ECG troopers, the New York City-based garrison rallied stormtroopers, sandtroopers, and scout troopers from the Connecticut Garrison, New England Garrison, Garrison Carida, and the NorthEast Remnant.



Chris Simonds brought and operated his R2-D2 for the shoot, and captured this photo with Snoop.

501st members all over the world helped Adidas launch the product line with other in-store appearances throughout January and February. Store managers and sneakerheads worldwide report that the eagerly anticipated *Star Wars* kicks are flying off the shelves.

"As one might expect, trooping the streets of Manhattan during morning rush hour is no small task," says Iervolino. "Like the fans, Adidas was also wowed with the show of, um, Force."

"The Imperial march on New York City was truly one of the most exciting happenings for us as a brand," says Adidas' Jess Weinstein. "It was an epic way to celebrate the launch of our footwear and apparel collection."

Adidas, in the name of the Empire City Garrison, made a charity donation to the Pinwheel Project, www.thepinwheelproject.org, an organization dedicated to spreading joy to hospitalized children and their families.



With Snoop and Darth Vader leading the way, more than 20 troopers, along with models decked out in matching black and white Adidas gear, marched from Foot Locker's headquarters to its Times Square location for a photo opportunity, stunning tourists and New Yorkers along the way. Photo by Daniel Carlton

"Wearing trooper armor is usually a sweaty affair, but a morning temperature in the mid-30s had the opposite effect," writes Steve Iervolino, Commanding Officer of the ECG. "Even wearing long-johns, the brutal wind chill, especially in the man-made canyons of Times Square, made this trooper long for the squishy-warm refuge of a tauntaun belly shelter."





BANTHA TRACKS: BY THE FANS FOR THE FANS



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any original art, envelope art, comics, illustrations, news, stories, meeting information, or any materials voluntarily submitted become the property of Bantha Tracks. All images should be good enough quality for print (i.e., non-pixelated at 300 dpi screen resolution). Ideal file size approx 1MB per image. No compensation will be given for voluntary submissions, and there is no guarantee of publication. Submissions will not be returned.

Each submission must include the creator's name, age, contact information, date the work was created, and a statement that the work is original, created by the person submitting it, and that the person is a member of the official Star Wars Fan Club. Send your electronic files to banthatracks@starwars.com or send your snail mail to Bantha Tracks, c/o Mary Farnan, P.O. Box 29901, San Francisco, CA 94129.



Ken Huegel (Darth Vader) delivered press packs to 11 locations for Turner Broadcasting in Romania for the launch of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. Making deliveries is remember, Huegel definitely had fun with the media along the way.



"The visits we made at the offices of newspapers, magazines, TV guides and web portals were really successful," writes Alina Bealu of Turner. "We can expect wonderful coverage at the launch of the new series and constant coverage for the new weekly episodes."

TROOPERS ON ICE

Members of the Southern California 501st Garrison made a Los Angeles Kings ice hockey game extra memorable on *Star Wars* night. There's just no getting past imposing troopers, or a cute little Jawa, without stopping for photos. Photos by Eddie Dennis



THE STRONG INFLUENCE OF THE FORCE

Photos and reporting by Ineabelle Rodriguez,
Executive Officer, Rebel Legion Puerto Rico

At the local traditional Masks Festival, in the town of Hatillo, Puerto Rico, members of The Gladiators group selected *Star Wars* as their theme for the competition in the parade. The Gladiators group is one of many who participate in this festival, hoping to win awards and recognition with their impressive floats and costumes.



Starting in April 2009, and working for nine months, the Gladiators were motivated to do something different for the Festival. Builder Hector Donato constructed the float using newspaper, contact cement, wood glue, piping, metallic mesh, steel rods and lots of fabric frizzles.

The Gladiators invited the members of the Puerto Rico Star Wars Legions, both Rebel and 501st, to help out with the construction. They took as much care as was possible on the details. The name of the entry in the parade was to be, appropriately enough, "The Empire."



After nine months of hard work, the dream came true. A magnificent float the size of a truck was completed.

"Their dedication to this project was so awe-inspiring we just had to ask why they chose *Star Wars*," writes Ineabelle Rodriguez. The answer? "We liked the movie very much, and we knew many people would like it."



Almost 30 members of the Gladiators rode and walked with the float in traditional costumes that resembled Imperial Troopers.

The float came complete with special effects, including lights, smoke, and moving parts. The smoke coming out of Vader's mask mimicked his breathing, and the TIE Fighters appeared to be flying.



The Empire float won first place at the Hatillo Masks Festival. "Congratulations Gladiators," concludes Rodriguez, "Star Wars fans salute you!"





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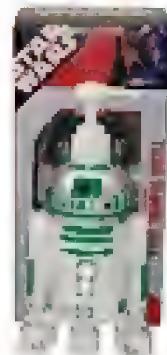
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RED FIVE DAVE FILONI'S ANIMATION PICKS



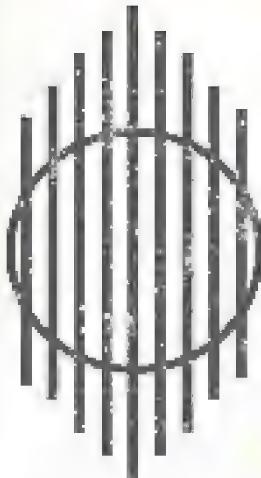
AS STAR WARS FANS WE KNOW EVERY DETAIL OF OUR BELOVED SAGA, BUT WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE BE EXPLORING? WE ASKED DAVE FILONI, SUPERVISING DIRECTOR OF *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS* TO RECOMMEND FIVE MUST-SEE ANIMATED WORKS THAT EVERY FAN SHOULD CHECK OUT.



Macross (A.K.A. Robotech, 1985)

This was the essential action adventure anime when I was a kid, and one of the few to reach kids nationwide in the U.S. The Veritech pilots reminded me of X-wing pilots, and the mechs were amazingly well-designed. It had that "familiar tech" feel that *Star Wars* has, but was new and original. Action, adventure, war, romance—*Macross* has it all, and it doesn't play down to a "kiddy" audience either. In fact, it was the first time I can remember seeing an animated character die.

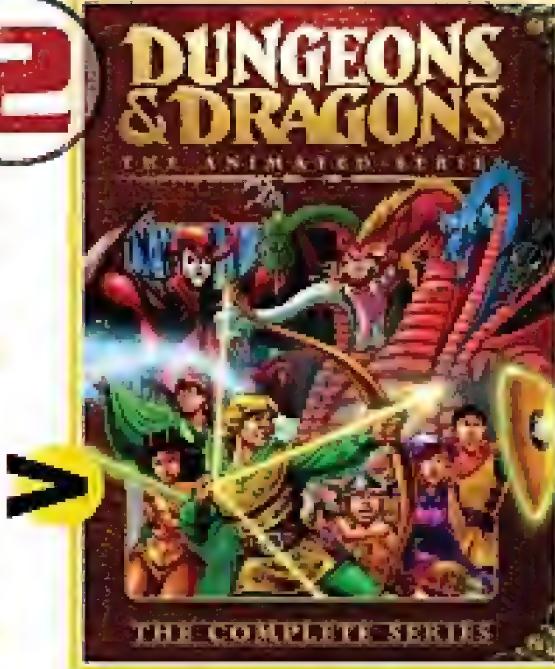
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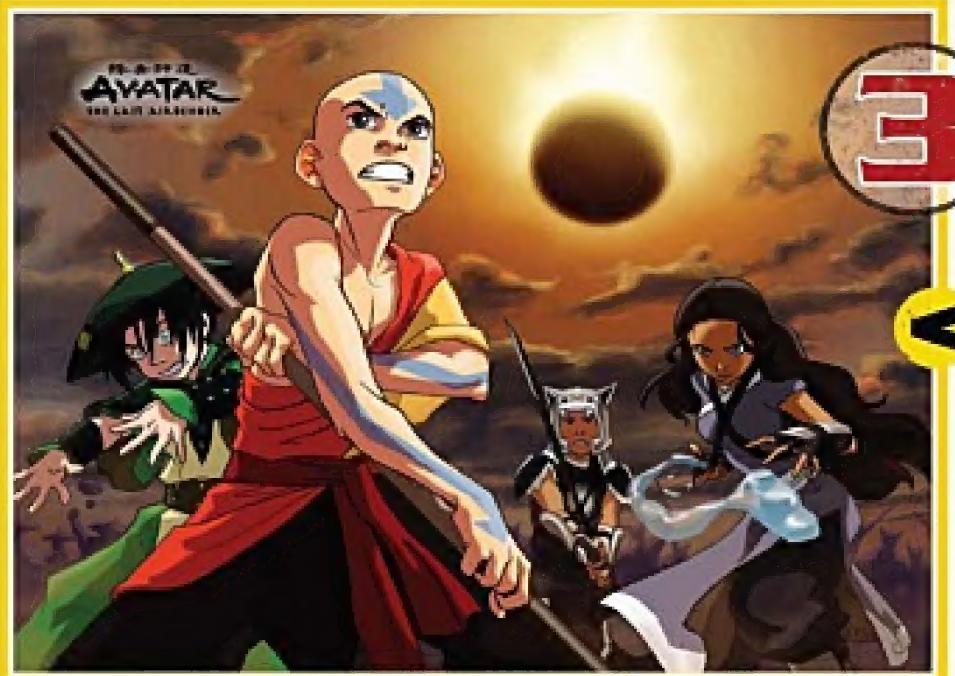


Dungeons & Dragons: The Animated Series (1983-85)

My brother and I used to get up early to watch this series every Saturday morning. The writers were obviously influenced by *Star Wars* with their stories—small bears that live in trees even appear in one episode. Also *Star Wars* author Michael Reaves worked on the series.

2





3

Avatar: The Last Airbender (2005-08)

I'm playing favorites here because I worked on this, but believe me, Star Wars was one of many influences on this series. A mythic journey about a group of friends, one who is basically a "chosen one," sounds pretty familiar, but it was really *Avatar*'s mix of comedy and drama that felt the most like Star Wars. That, and the Jedi-like training Aang would receive.

Princess Mononoke (1997)

This is one of my favorite films of all time. Great storytelling, great design, and if you look closely at the lead character San, you'll see triangles painted on her cheeks that might just seem familiar to fans of Ahsoka Tano.

Akira (1988)

This is a must watch for anyone who wants to get started with anime (although take note that it is rated R). *Akira* was like nothing I had ever seen before when it came to animation. The visuals blew me away and I had to see it twice with my friend the first night we rented it just to try and absorb the story. Great motorcycle design, too!

4



5

Interview by Pablo Hidalgo



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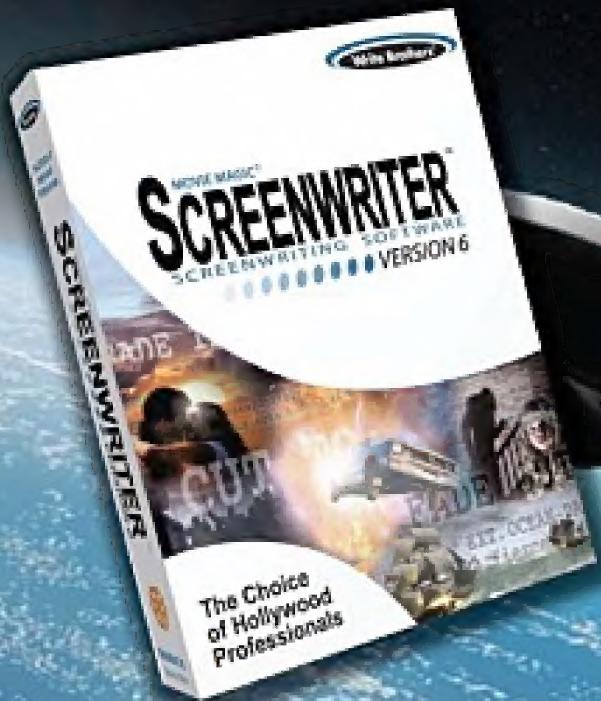


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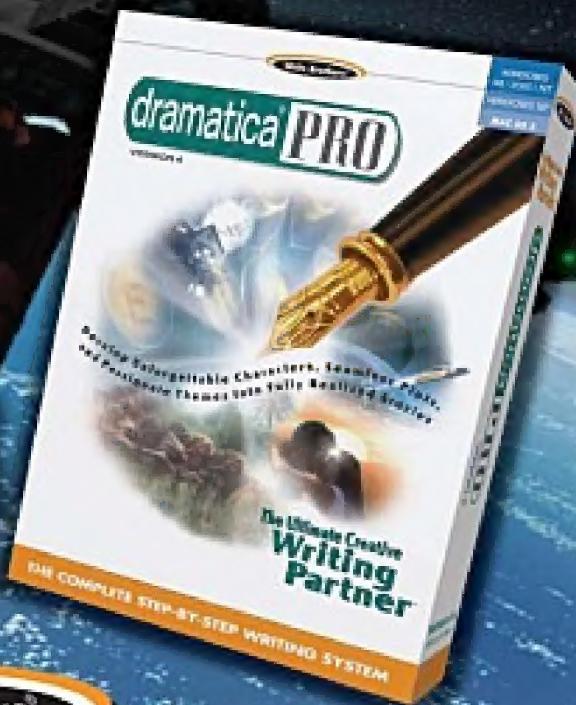
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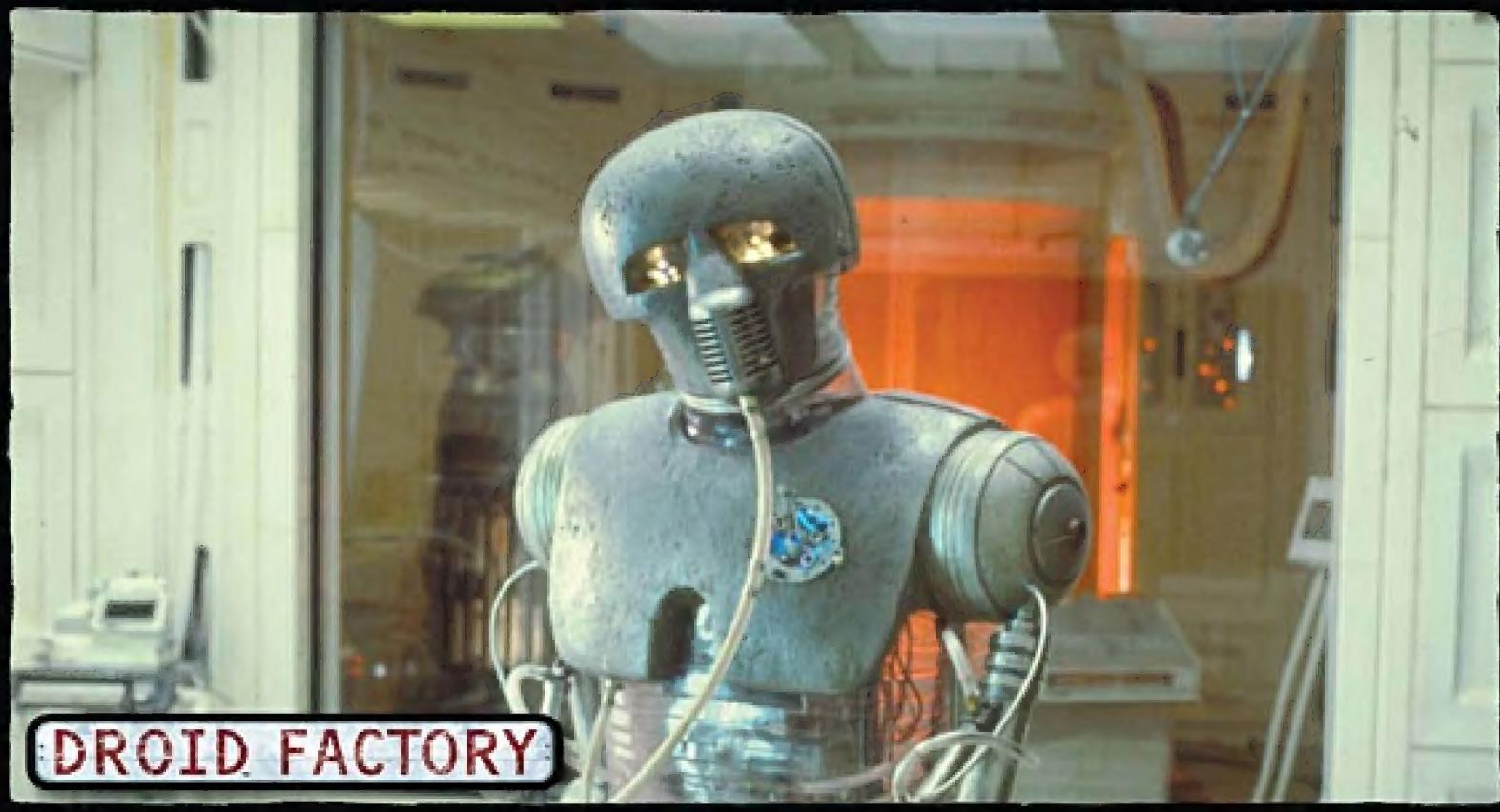


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